HISTORY
of the
PUBLIC LIBRARY
in
VIGO COUNTY
1816–1975

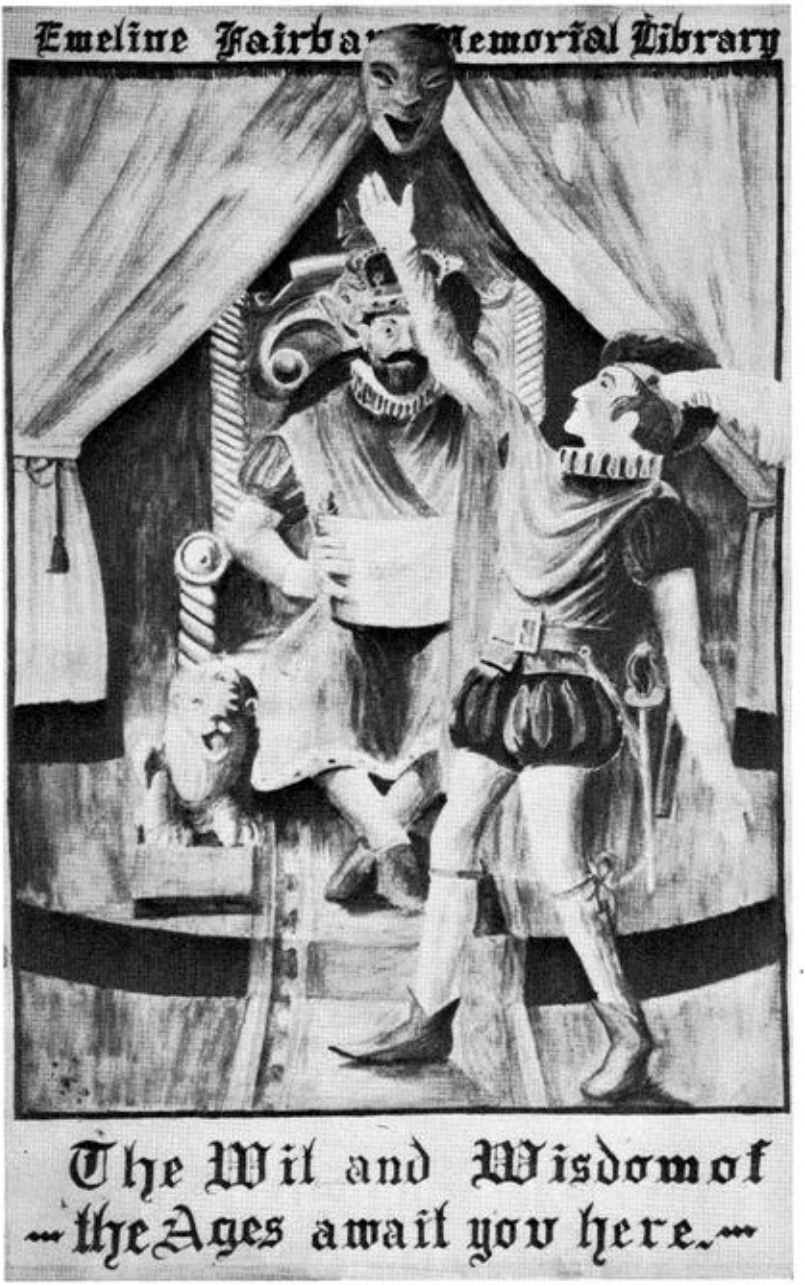

Fig. 1. Poster of the 1930s, painted by Edgar Suttner.

HISTORY
of the
PUBLIC LIBRARY
in
VIGO COUNTY
1816 - 1975

IRENE ROBERTS McDONOUGH

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
1977

McDonough, Irene Roberts, 1909–

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Dedicated
to the
Citizens of Vigo County,
Indiana,
whose welfare has been a constant challenge
to the developing county library
system

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PREFACE

> Generations of Hoosiers have articulated a belief in libraries as essential to the preservation of the Republic, guardians against ignorance and illiteracy, safe-guards against public immorality, agencies through which aesthetic values and appreciation may be inculcated and preserved, and the means by which men and women may promote their own and society's material interests.
>
> —J. ROBERT CONSTANTINE[1]

The idea of public libraries in Indiana is as old as the state itself. However, much time and activity was to transpire before Vigo County, Indiana, had within its boundaries a stable, publicly funded and used library. At this writing, almost one half of the county's library history preceded the actual beginning of the current Vigo County Public Library (VCPL).[2] However, that history has been cloaked in obscurity.

Throughout the last twenty years, brief anecdotes and historical sketches of VCPL's past have come to my attention as I used the Information Files there. Gradually, I developed the idea that these deserved to be pulled together as a background, giving perspective and continuity to the present library system. The stories of repeated struggles and dedicated work which contributed to the building of the county system of the 1970s truly intensify one's appreciation of the resulting library services.

It was with this feeling that I set to work collecting bits of information about those early years in Terre Haute's library world, and my interest and admiration increased as I searched. Thus began this effort to trace the history of Vigo County's public library.

I have not worked alone nor unaided. The files of the Vigo County Public Library, the Vigo County Historical Museum, the Vigo County School Corporation, and the Indiana State Library have been graciously opened to me. The chronology of events in the time line is courtesy of Edward N. Howard. Many present and former members of the VCPL staff have assisted me in collecting information, and Miss Ethel Hughes, daughter of Sallie Hughes, was especially helpful in regard to her mother's term of service. I thank them all. I am especially indebted to Edward N. Howard, Betty C. Martin, and Violet Carroll for their valuable suggestions. I also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Library Board and the understanding encouragement of my family and friends.

Every effort has been made to be accurate in this account, but if facts are in error or important events omitted or slighted, my deep apology is offered. However, if the magnificent dedication and persistent spirit of the citizens and librarians of the distant and immediate past come to life in the following pages, I shall be gratified.

I. R. M.

April 1977

PART ONE

Laying Foundations
1816 - 1927

1

INITIAL YEARS

> Saturday evening was a gala occasion at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial library when the whole building was brilliantly illuminated and thrown open to the public, equipped completely. . . . It was in the nature of a private reception Saturday evening when the guests were out in their good clothes and their company manners, with the added interest that the elegance all about them was not the possession of a single host or hostess, but that each present was there in that capacity. . . .[1]

A slim, erect figure sat at the highly polished desk in the office of the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. The hot August sun streamed through the double, south windows, accenting the spaciousness of the shiny new room. Sallie Hughes had held the post of Head Librarian only a little more than three months, and much of that time was spent preparing for and making the move from the North Eighth Street building to the new Fairbanks building. According to news articles, the last book had been moved on Tuesday, August 7, 1906. Now, by Saturday afternoon, all was in readiness for the opening reception to be held that evening. Plans had been made to begin complete service to the public on Monday, August 13, at 9:00 a.m. The usual Sunday hours of 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. would be observed on Sunday following the opening.

But first, on Saturday evening, August 11, 1906, at 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., the formal opening of Terre Haute's new public library, a gift to the city by Crawford Fairbanks in memory of his mother, was held. The tone of the accolade in the *Saturday Spectator* of August 18 reporting the opening was re-

peated in local, state, and national publications throughout the coming months. A year later, Mrs. Sallie Hughes, the Librarian, wrote, "in April 1906, the handsome building was completed, magnificently fitted and furnished, the gift of a devoted son to the memory of a worthy mother, and the pride of the city."[2] *Public Libraries* (a former publication of Library Bureau, manufacturer of library furniture) said the building was "probably the most perfectly classic in outline in the state."[3]

There is little doubt that on this opening evening Terre Haute citizens prized the elegance and architectural beauty which this new building added to their city more than the services it was to render through the coming decades. The 2,000 or more visitors that evening ascended the steps of a building in Green River limestone, which grows whiter with age, done in Doric architecture, a style with exceptional beauty and grace. In one of the "finest residence sections of the city,"[4] it was faced by three of the city's most beautiful churches on Seventh Street: Centenary Methodist Episcopal, St. Stephens Episcopal, and Central Presbyterian.

Inside, the visitors were greeted by the staff and trustees, against a background of spaciousness, elegance, and beauty. The twenty-eight-foot dome, portraying authors and historical figures in stained glass, was aglow with a myriad of lights. A stately old palm, willed to the library by Miss Marietta Grover, who had given forty-five years of service in the schools, was in full view, and Mr. Cowan's fresh flowers added their beauty. The wainscoting, stairs, and large counter in the "delivery room" (the room where materials were borrowed and returned) were of Italian marble. Long mahogany settees were invitingly placed on either side of that room. Janet Scudder's sculpture, the Wood Nymph, purchased for the library by Terre Haute citizens in 1893 and received after the World's Columbian Exposition, in 1895, now had suitable surroundings in the large room. Large square archways connected the reading and reference rooms on the right with the "delivery room" and stack area; the same type of arch connected the "delivery room" with the children's room on the left.

The children's room, with scaled-down fittings, was an innovation; not all libraries had a special room for children. In her first annual report, Mrs. Hughes said it was one of the largest, most convenient, and most beautiful children's rooms to be found anywhere. The stack area was easily accessible to the

Fig. 2. Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library before surrounding residences gave way to Indiana State University.

public and would accommodate shelving for 30,000 volumes. Furnishings throughout the building were of mahogany and brass; all woodwork was solid mahogany. Contributing to the overall feeling of light and space were the many large, double windows with stained glass top panels. A later employee of the library, Miss Hazel Bungard, recalls visiting the new building with her school class. She thought it the most beautiful thing she had even seen and now describes her impression: "It was gorgeous."

In addition to the public areas which met the visitor's eye, a spacious office and a workroom were accessible to the left of the "delivery counter" (the long, marble counter in the "delivery room" where materials were to be returned). The full basement had a bicycle room to be used by both staff and patrons, meeting rooms, an unpacking room, and public rest rooms, plus a large open area. *Public Libraries*[5] noted the absence of a staff room and of an elevator to move books from the basement to the main floor, but suggested that those omissions could be corrected. In the end *Public Libraries* predicted a glowing future

for the building. To the great credit of the architects, it must be pointed out that an elevator shaft, masquerading as a large closet, was built into the structure; the only thing missing was the elevator. The shaft is easily recognized in the closet opening into the workroom (now used as a business office). Directly below it, opening into the unpacking room (now the maintenance room), is an alcove with an easily removable ceiling. So the elevator shaft was there, but by the time the installation of an elevator was considered in the 1950s, the workroom had been moved to the basement, and the shaft was no longer conveniently located.

The great pride displayed by the citizens as they surveyed the magnificent building was justified, for it was the culmination of more than ten years of dreaming, planning, and working.

Such dreaming was not new in Terre Haute, nor was the idea of a public library. Many years of library service, often attempted, often broken, preceded this eventful evening.

Going back to early beginnings, libraries were provided for in the first state constitution of Indiana adopted in 1816. Article IX, Section V, of that document required at least ten percent of the sale of lots in any county to be set aside for a library. When Vigo County was established, the state gave the new county seventy-two unsold lots and the courthouse square plus $3,775 in bonds and $1,000 in cash. The lots were reported to have sold for $12,773.75.

The act establishing the County of Vigo was approved January 21, 1818. Then on January 28, 1818, an act was approved authorizing Vigo, among several other counties, to incorporate a library. According to the act, the library's affairs were to be administered by a president and seven trustees. The first of these were to be elected the first Monday of September 1818. A. R. Markle[6] says this election was held, though existing records show no activity before 1822. Then there were lists of books purchased by Joseph Jenckes from 1822 on;[7] a notice printed by the *Western Register & Terre-Haute Advertiser* (Terre Haute's first newspaper) on July 21, 1823, announcing the hours of the public library with John Britton, a magistrate, as librarian; references to bonds given prior to April 3, 1823; a receipt dated April 11, 1823, acknowledging $200 for books, received from the county fund;[8] and a *Western Register* notice of September 3, 1823, signed by George Dewees, President (the Major George

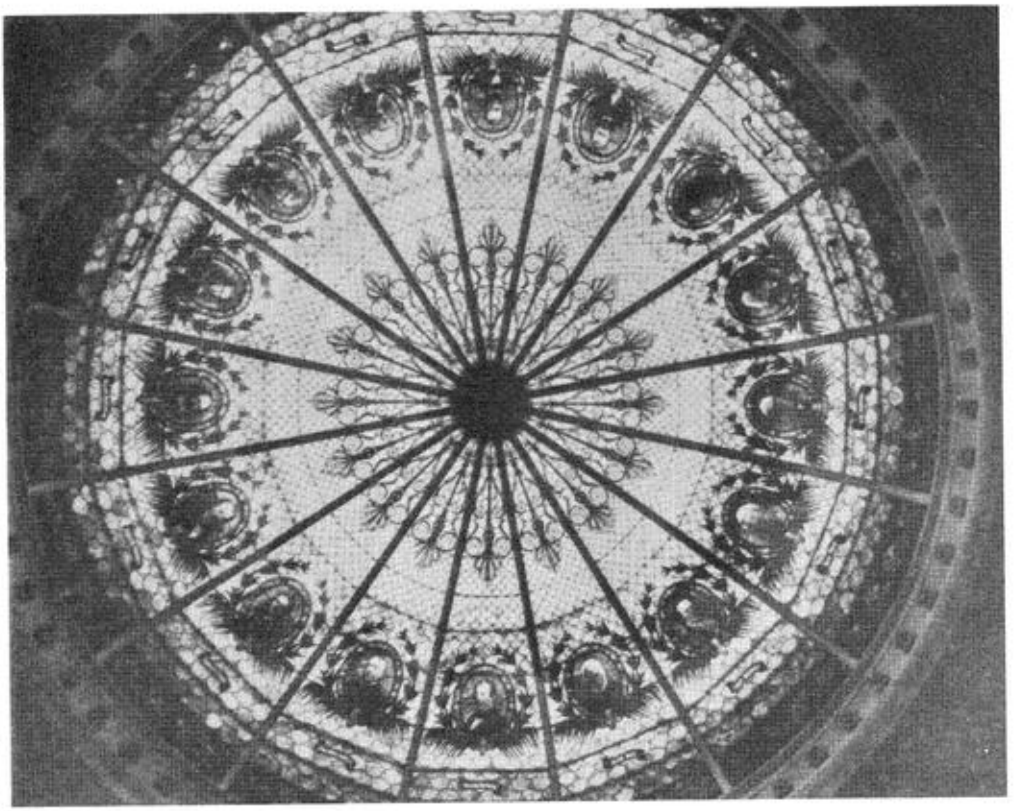


Fig. 3. Dome of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

Figures in the dome, starting with Richard W. Thompson, bottom center and continuing clockwise are:

Henry Longfellow Harriet B. Stowe
Ulysses S. Grant Abraham Lincoln Thomas Jefferson
Lew Wallace Rosa Bonheur William Shakespeare
Daniel Voorhees Thomas A. Edison
James W. Riley Washington Irving Victor Hugo
Ludwig Beethoven Mark Twain

Dewees who built Preston House).[9] Further notes in the *Western Register* and C. C. Oakey's *Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County* indicate that in 1827 borrowers were asked to put up a $25 bond[10] and that the county library was among the attractions of Terre Haute in 1832.

Terre Haute, at that time, was a village of eight or nine hundred people, and the library holdings were seven to eight hundred volumes, mostly selected and purchased in Providence, Rhode Island, by Joseph Jenckes. As mentioned before, financial backing for this early county library was spelled out in Article IX, Section V, of the state constitution, but it is not certain that the provisions were strictly carried out. The library did continue to exist, however, with well-known personalities elected as trustees. The *Western Register,* on September 14, 1824, reported William C. Linton, president, and James Farrington, Curtis Gilbert, William Clark, Nathaniel Huntington, D. H. Johnson, D. F. Durkee, and George Hussey, trustees; according to the regulations, they were to take office in January 1825. The vacancy left by William C. Linton's death was filled by Samuel Crawford on May 3, 1836. On March 6, 1844, R. W. Thompson and Erastus Flint filled vacancies. Following Britton as librarian, were such persons as A. T. Higgins, deputy clerk to Curtis Gilbert; E. T. Baird; and Welton M. Modesitt. As late as March 12, 1866, a record shows that the library was given into the custody of the Young Men's Literary Association.[11]

How simple and gratifying it would be if this first public library of the County of Vigo had grown through the years and become the forerunner of the Vigo County Public Library of the 1970s. Local citizens could have claimed proudly the second oldest public library in the state of Indiana—Vincennes Public Library began in 1807.[12] Instead of a smooth line of succession, Vigo County from its beginning until the year 1882 had a very irregular, overlapping pattern of successes and failures in establishing public libraries. An overview of this pattern reveals it beginning about 1818 with a county library, funded by the county and controlled by elected trustees, then jumping to township and city libraries controlled variously by the township trustees and private associations. The pattern shows two and three libraries in existence at one time with equally varied funding. In 1882, the pattern became more steady and converged on one public library for the city, operated by the Board of School Trustees and funded by city taxes. From May 20, 1882, the

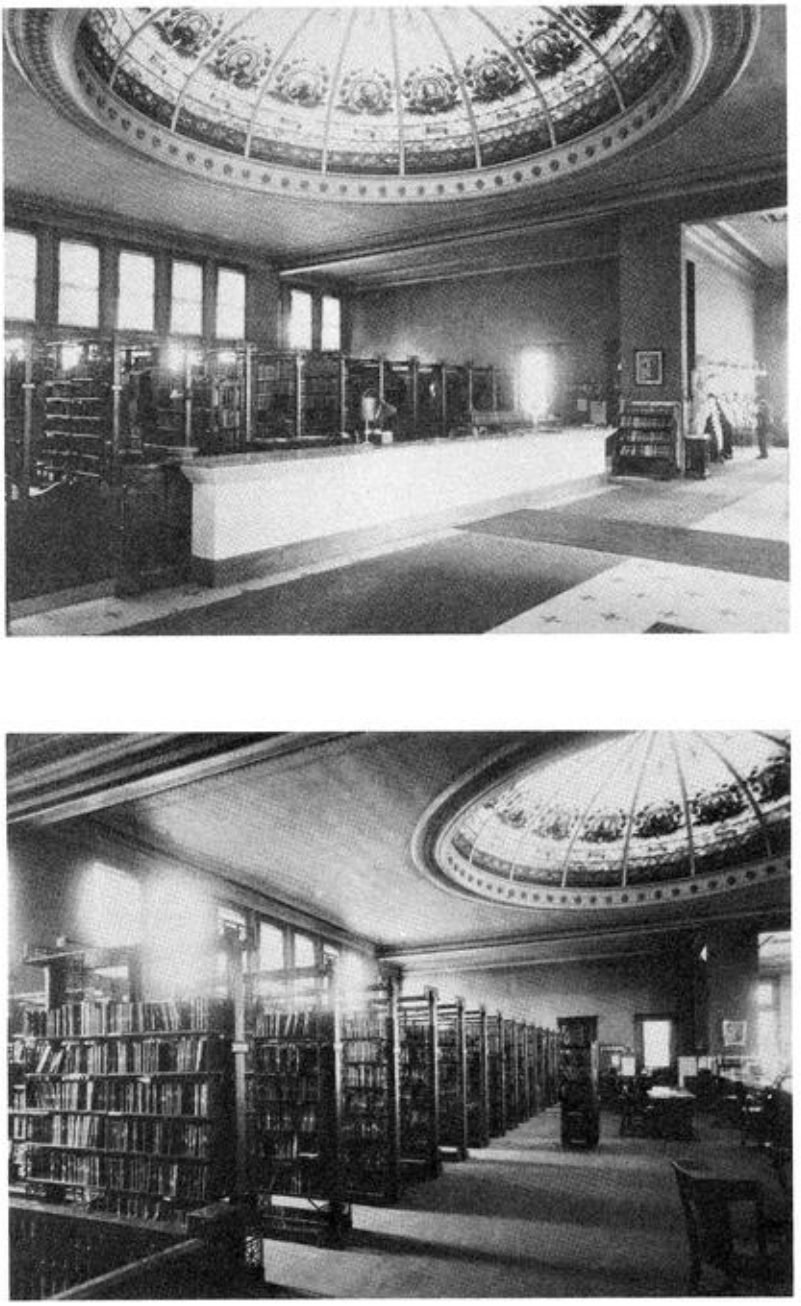


Fig. 4. Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. Delivery Room (above) and Stacks from behind the Delivery Counter (below).

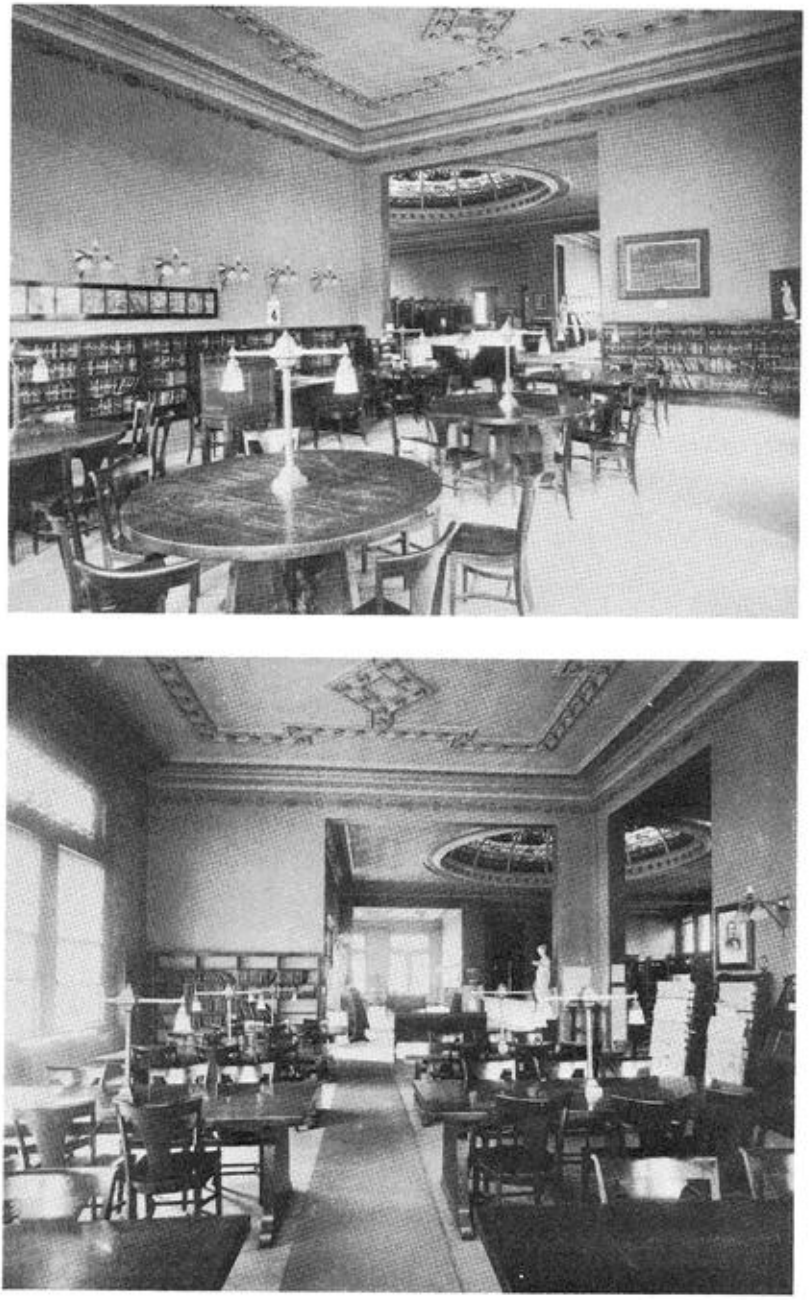


Fig. 5. Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. Children's Room (above) and Reading Room (below).

pattern is continuous, but not unchanging. Following on through those changes, the pattern arrives in June 1975 about where it started in 1818—a county library, funded by county taxes and under the control of a separate board (this time appointed instead of elected).

Notice.

THE Citizens of the county of Vigo, are respectfully informed that the

Public Library

is open for their perusal, by their complying with the regulations of the institution—where due attention will be paid to the issuing and returning of Books, each day in the week, (Sundays eccepted) between the hours of 10 and 12 A. M. and 2 and 4 P M. at my office in Terre-Haute.

JOHN BRITTON, Librarian.
July 21, 1823. 1tf

WESTERN REGISTER &
TERRE-HAUTE ADVERTISER
Vol. 1 No. 1 July 21, 1823

Fig. 6. Notice of the opening of the Public Library.

During the mid-1800s, township libraries were created by the Free Public Schools Act of 1852, overlapping the first struggling county library. A state tax of ¼ of a mill on each dollar of taxable property and a two-year poll tax of 25 cents were used to purchase "township libraries" under the direction of the State Board of Education.[31] It should be noted that a collection of books was then regarded as a library, while by 1906 the library building had become equally important. In the years immediately following the Act of 1852, books were purchased by the state and parceled out to the townships of Indiana. One trustee, selected by his fellow trustees, acted as the librarian and found some place from which to dispense the books, probably his home or office. These libraries dwindled by Civil War times, and in 1867, an act funding Indiana State Normal School provided that $50,000, if there were that much in it, be taken from the state library fund to build the institution.[14] This meant the end of the township libraries.

In 1855, according to William E. Henry of the State Library, Vigo County profited by a philanthropic project of William

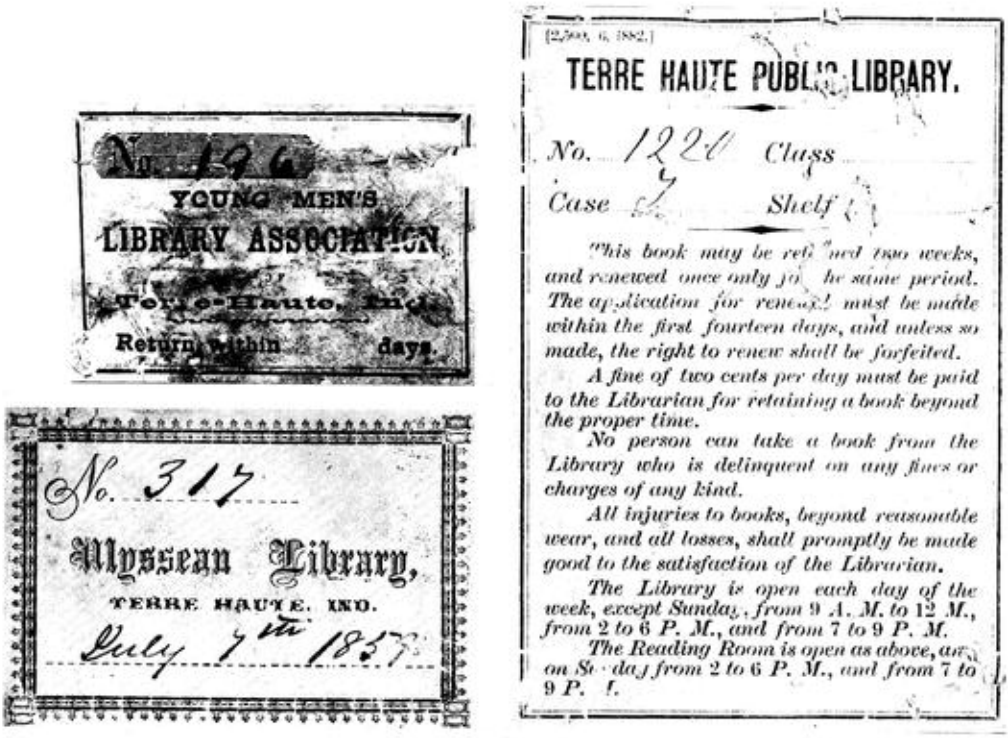
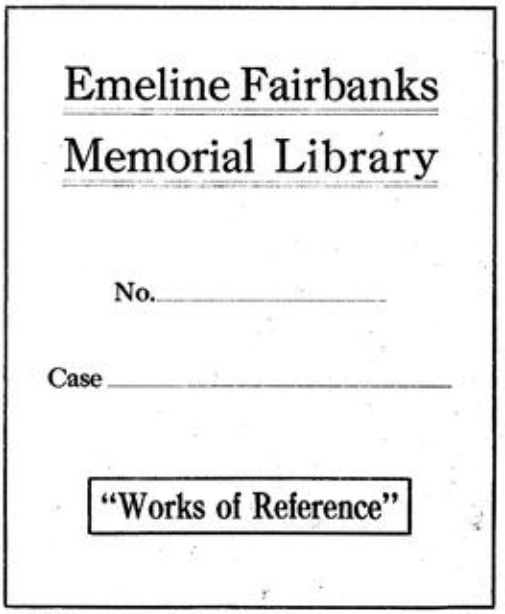

No. 136
YOUNG MEN'S
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Terre-Haute, Ind.
Return within days.
No. 317
Ulyssean Library,
TERRE HAUTE, IND.
July 7th 1857
TERRE HAUTE PUBLIC LIBRARY.
No. 1221 Class
Case 4 Shelf
This book may be retained two weeks, and renewed once only for the same period. The application for renewal must be made within the first fourteen days, and unless so made, the right to renew shall be forfeited.
A fine of two cents per day must be paid to the Librarian for retaining a book beyond the proper time.
No person can take a book from the Library who is delinquent on any fines or charges of any kind.
All injuries to books, beyond reasonable wear, and all losses, shall promptly be made good to the satisfaction of the Librarian.
The Library is open each day of the week, except Sunday, from 9 A. M. to 12 M., from 2 to 6 P. M., and from 7 to 9 P. M.
The Reading Room is open as above, and on Sunday from 2 to 6 P. M., and from 7 to 9 P. M.

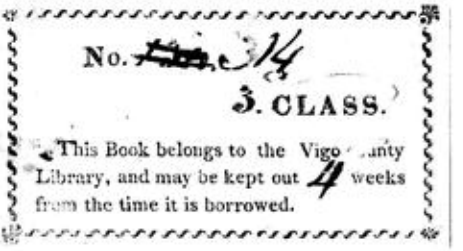
Fig. 7. Bookplates used through the years.

Maclure, founder of the Workingman's Institute in New Harmony. After his death, the remainder of his fortune, $72,000, was distributed to 144 libraries in 89 of Indiana's 92 counties.[15] These libraries were known as the Maclure or Workingman's libraries and consisted of a one-time distribution of $500 to any workingman's group in the state which could give proof of having a clubroom or library already containing 100 books. R. E. Banta, writing in the *Indianapolis Star Magazine*, said,

> It was through William Maclure's original philanthropy, however, that Indiana can claim to have had the first effective state-wide free library system in the Midwest if not the nation.[16]

Vigo was among the 89 counties that received a Maclure library gift which, for some reason, was not combined with an existing





library. It is recorded that in 1857 Henry Fairbanks, Crawford Fairbanks' father, presented a petition that the early county library be merged with the Workingman's library.[17] However, the move did not succeed, and it is not clear how Vigo County qualified for a Maclure library. The books were received and eventually scattered, many reaching the various public libraries.

In addition to already existing libraries, the Public Library Act approved February 16, 1852, enabled subscription libraries to be created by private citizens or organizations. There were several known beginnings of that type; among them were the Ulyssean and Concordia Society libraries and the first Terre Haute Library Association. William Wiley recorded his own membership certificate for the Association. It was issued on February 7, 1869, and indicated a fee of $4.00 per year. The Association was located at the northwest corner of Fifth and

Main (now Wabash Avenue). Most of the libraries lasted only a few years, and books were shuttled back and forth from dying projects to newly born ones. Miss Grace Davis, first assistant to the Librarian, described the results of this shifting about in an article in the *Wabash Valley Review*, January 1921:

> Two volumes of John Gillies' *History of Greece* published in 1882 have four book plates of successive owners under the book pocket of the present library, [Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library]. A red one shows that they were numbers eighty-one and eighty-two of the Young Men's Library Association of Terre Haute, a blue one dated July 7, 1859, indicates that they were once the property of the Ulyssean Library. Above these are the white book plates of the Terre Haute Library Association and the Terre Haute Public Library giving hours and rules.

In spite of all the various short-lived libraries and the many excellent home collections, Terre Haute's need for a good public library was keenly felt by the late 1800s. William Wiley, then superintendent of schools, expressed the feeling in his 1868 annual report by calling attention to "the necessity of such an institution for the advantage and convenience of the pupils." Again in his 1873 report, he made the appeal even stronger:

> The time has almost come when the public schools must have a Library at their command. So many attempts, and I might add, as many failures thus far, have been made in this direction by different parties, that it seems almost useless to mention the subject again. But the necessities of such an auxiliary increase with each year, and it does appear that some means should be devised to secure its establishment. The schools have no Library. Terre Haute has nothing worthy of the name. Let us work to build and maintain a first class Library for the children of the public schools.[18]

Six years elapsed between Wiley's last plea and further significant action. Then in early 1879 a petition for the organization of another library association was circulated. But that movement was different; it culminated in the beginning of the present Vigo County Public Library.

There were 131 persons who signed the petition and pledged their support. A meeting of these subscribers was called for March 15, 1879; because there were only seventy-four people

present, the group dismissed and immediately reconvened as a meeting of citizens who subscribed toward the establishment of a public library in Terre Haute. A new subscription list was made up of seventy-four persons, each pledging to pay $1.00. At that second meeting, temporary officers were appointed and a board of directors (or managers) was elected. Presiding was N. G. Buff, Esquire, and the secretary was Dr. J. P. Worrell. Directors elected by ballot were the Rev. C. R. Henderson, Dr. Joseph Richardson, Mr. C. R. Peddle, the Hon. H. D. Scott, Mrs. T. W. Harper, Mr. Samuel McKeen, and Mr. J. M. Allen. The original manuscript of the minutes of these meetings as recorded by Dr. Worrell and the subscription list of seventy-four signatures are in the files of the present Vigo County Public Library.[19] On the list of subscribers were seventy-four of the most progressive, learned, and public-spirited citizens of Terre Haute; their names have been commemorated in buildings, streets, and organizations throughout the city.

The *Terre Haute Evening Gazette* of January 6, 1880, recounts that the first business meeting of the board of directors of the newly formed Library Association was held on March 19, 1879. The following officers were elected: president, Samuel McKeen; secretary, Dr. Joseph Richardson; treasurer, the Rev. C. R. Henderson; and librarian, Mrs. T. W. Harper (Ida Husted). The March 19 meeting was the beginning of an arduous year of soliciting signatures, subscriptions, and donations, in order to put the organization on a firm financial basis with funding for the future. Both William Wiley and Ida Harper have written accounts of these activities in unforgettable terms: women went from door to door in cold weather as they never had before and men gave time from their businesses, among other efforts. When the City Common Council was asked to purchase six thousand shares of stock, it hedged; then on May 20, 1879, the Association sent the Council a petition asking it to levy a tax of one half of one mill on each dollar (all provided for by the State Law of 1852). Mr. Cruft, of the Council, moved that the idea be submitted to the voters; it was and won by a majority of 693 votes. There were 2,224 votes for and 1,531 against the issue. Surprisingly, the ordinance to implement the library was turned down at the next Council meeting. A motion to reconsider the ordinance was presented at the June 17 meeting, and members of the Library Association were there with high hopes. However, the motion was tabled and not taken off until December 2, then

tabled again. At the January 5, 1880, annual meeting of the stockholders of the Terre Haute Library Association, the same officers were re-elected, the financial woes were recounted, and no course of action was decided upon. The busy people who had worked for a year were running out of time and zeal.

Fortunately, a group of women stepped forward. They were not a totally new group; listed as members were Hattie Scott, Ella Burt McKeen, Elize B. Wiley, Elizabeth S. Byers—all either wives or daughters of the men on the original subscription list. There were twelve women in all; additional members were Leora Bowyer, Marietta Grover, Emma B. Grover, Mary Sydney Miller, Mary F. Reeves, Mrs. Charles Brokaw, and Lucy C. Wonner.[20] The twelfth person has not been identified. H. Beckwith describes the first organization of the women and the library they set up as follows:

> The Terre Haute Library Association was established quite recently. . . . The association is exclusively under the control of the ladies of Terre Haute. It has a constitution, by-laws, board of directors, president, secretary, etc. The first president was Miss Boyer [no doubt the Miss Bowyer of Mrs. Wonner's letter, noted below]. The library room is exceedingly comfortable and well furnished, and is readily accessible. It is supplied with all the city papers and with numerous periodicals. The number of volumes at present exceed eight hundred.[21]

Mrs. Wonner was the first librarian, and the details of the actual establishment of that subscription library are recounted in a letter written by her, part of which is reproduced below:

> Dear Mary
>
> I will give you a few points in regard to the Library. The Universalist Society with the money paid in their Mite Society had purchased one hundred books which were kept in Swope's jewelry store and one of the young lady members took charge of them Saturday afternoons, and exchanged the books for the other members. Several of the members were school teachers, and they thought that there should be a Library in this city. Mrs. Sam McKeen, Miss Bowyer, and Hattie were the leading spirits, as the Universalist Mite Society had $100.00 in the treasury they offered to give the books at Swopes and the money for a nucleus. There

> were twelve ladies nearly all were teachers and they concluded to see what could be done. At this time the Y.M.C.A. were in debt for rent, and were going to give up their room in the Marble Block. The ladies took it, and spent their spring vacation, cleaning and mending the carpet, fixing the room so that Thursday eve March 25th the L. was opened with a book reception and one hundred books were contributed. Another book reception in April added fifty more. An annual fee of $2.00 by those drawing books was paid and so the L. was carried on for over two years. The change in the law of the state reducing the number of inhabitants in cities from thirty thousand to ten thousand allowing the school trustees to use money for libraries *if they saw fit* put T. H. trustees in that position. They saw fit, but Fort Wayne trustees have not as yet. Frank can look at the law. He also knows of the present-state of affairs concerning unused money in the hands of school trustees. I understand there is $100,000 in Fort Wayne. I have heard it claimed that they can build a fine Library. So they can, but our people have enjoyed, and I trust have improved the opportunity afforded in our humble way for 12 years.[22]

The *Terre Haute City Directory, 1881* lists the following officers for the Terre Haute Library Association: president, William D. Ewing; vice president, Mrs. Samuel McKeen; secretary, Mrs. Emma B. Grover; treasurer, William W. Byers; librarian, Lucy C. Wonner. Mrs. Samuel McKeen (Ella Burt) was the superintendent of the Universalist Sabbath School,[23] and it was the Mite Society of the Universalist Church which gave their small library as a nucleus for the Terre Haute Library Association. The presence of two men on the list of 1881 officers suggests that some of the twelve women succeeded in re-enlisting the interests of their men.

So the spirit and name, and possibly personnel, of the 1879 Terre Haute Library Association found continuity and success in the library opened on March 25, 1880, at 624½ Main Street (Wabash Avenue).

The Book Reception on the opening day was a markedly successful beginning for the new Terre Haute Library Association under the direction of the women. On the following day, the newspapers predicted that it would succeed. Lists of the one hundred books received have been preserved. Some of the entries are listed below:

Rev. J. N. Beard	*The Mikado's Empire*
Ben Burt	Twenty-seven titles
Prof. Wilson	*Ancient America, Biglow Papers* 2 vol.
Rev. J. H. McCullough	*Christian's Legacy, Problem of Problems*
Fred A. Ross	Six titles
Miss Hattie Scott	*Ramesis the Great*
Max Hoberg	Four titles
Mrs. Dr. Armstrong	*Felix Holt*
Mrs. Dr. Elder	*Strong Drink*

At least two other book receptions were held, and a $2.00 annual fee was paid by those drawing books. Careful management kept the library open for a little more than two years.

Financial needs were beginning to overtake the project. However, on March 7, 1881, a state law to establish public libraries in connection with the common schools was approved. It provided local taxes for library support:

> CHAPTER XXVII
>
> Sec. 1 That in all cities of this State having ten thousand inhabitants, . . . the Board of School Trustees . . . shall have power . . . to establish a free public library in connection with the common schools of such city. . . .
>
> Sec. 2 Such Board shall also have power to levy a tax of not exceeding one-third of a mill on each dollar of taxable property assessed for taxation in such city. . . .[24]

Additional sections of the state law gave the Board of School Trustees specific instructions for operating the library and stated that the taxes levied by them were to be placed on the tax duplicate and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other taxes and paid over to the School Board. Once more, it was possible for the education authorities to tax the populace for a public library. (The earlier attempt by the State Department of Education to fund township libraries by state taxes had not worked.)

Terre Haute quickly took advantage of this opportunity. On June 10, 1881, the School Board levied a library tax of two

Fig. 8. The second location of the Terre Haute Public Library at 709½ Main Street (Wabash Avenue) was on the second floor of the building on the left.

cents on each $100.00 of taxable property. On May 20, 1882, the Board purchased the furniture and books of the Terre Haute Library Association for $1.00 and assumed a $70 debt. The library was closed for inventory and reorganization. The Board decided to remain in the second floor location at 624½ Main Street (Wabash Avenue) and to retain Mrs. Lucy C. Wonner as librarian with her daughter as assistant. On July 1, 1882, the refurbished library was opened as the Terre Haute Public Library. Sometime in 1884 or 1885, the library was moved to 709½ Main Street (Wabash Avenue).[25]

Since the public library in Terre Haute has been continuous from the era just outlined, it is reasonable to believe that one of the dates within that time might be claimed as the "beginning"

of the Vigo County Public Library. But which one? W. E. Henry of the State Library gives 1881;[26] local library records and William Wiley give 1882. Sallie Hughes, librarian, named May 20, 1882 (the date of purchase by the School Board) as the beginning of the Terre Haute Public Library; because she named it in the annual state reports, it is logical to settle upon that date as the beginning of the present Vigo County Public Library.

An advisory committee of five citizens (including teachers) was appointed in 1884 to help with book selections; new appointments were to be made each year. The annual "Library Day" to receive book donations was observed at least three times.[27] Book catalogs were printed listing both fiction and nonfiction. Then, in November 1894, Miss Lucy Wonner resigned, and Mrs. Sallie Hughes was named assistant in her place. In May 1895, Mrs. Lucy C. Wonner, who had been the Librarian from the opening of the subscription library at 624½ Main Street, resigned; and Miss Leatha M. Paddock, who had been substituting while Mrs. Wonner was on leave, was employed as Librarian with Mrs. Sallie Hughes continuing as assistant. *The Educational Catalogue,* an index to fourteen magazines of interest to teachers, was compiled by the library staff and printed by G. H. Hebb Co. in 1895. During these years, the public library became more and more closely related to the schools, as evidenced by the January 10, 1896, meeting of the School Board in which the "Superintendent suggested the propriety of making an effort to bring the Public Library still more nearly in touch with the schools."[28]

The expanded activities meant a larger book stock; the inventory had increased from 1,140 in 1882 to 12,772 in 1895, and the circulation in 1895 was 43,934.[29] For fifteen years, the library had been housed in first one and then two second-story rooms on a main street. In that time, those rooms had become more and more crowded and noisy. Therefore, during 1895, the Board of School Trustees cast about for more suitable quarters. According to the Board minutes of June 22, 1895, the one hundred feet of ground immediately south of the High School, located at Seventh and Walnut Streets, seemed desirable for enlarging the High School building and constructing a public library. Demas Deming, the owner of the land, wanted "too much" for the property; but after much maneuvering the Board of School Trustees purchased the property for $7,500. Immedi-

ately, the populace began talking of a donation from some citizen for constructing a library building. On August 24, 1895, the Board actually considered transferring fifty feet of the Deming land (south of the High School) to the library. The matter was tabled, and nothing more was done that year.

Then on April 20, 1896, the Board received a proposition from the Universalist Church whereby they could purchase the Universalist Church property at 119 North Eighth Street. The sale was complete by June 1, 1896. On August 29, President J. A. Britton of the School Board submitted a building permit for improvements. In October, the remodeled building, costing a total of $8,340.53,[30] was ready for use as a library. The superintendent was instructed to close the library at 709½ Wabash Avenue, move materials, and arrange for a public opening of the new quarters of the Terre Haute Public Library. The opening reception was held on October 23, 1896, at 7:30 p.m.

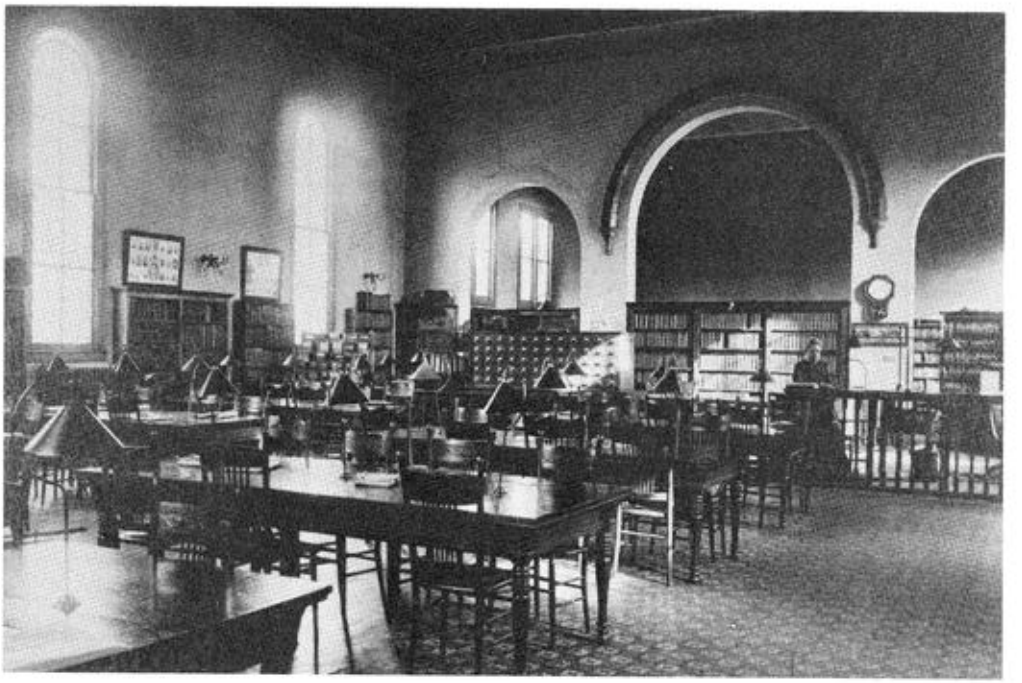


Fig. 9. Reading Room in the former church building, 119 North Eighth Street.

In describing the building, the *Terre Haute Evening Gazette* of December 19, 1896, explained the reason for buying it and moving the library there instead of building on the lot south of the High School:

> No Terre Haute philanthropist had as yet seen it agreeable to endow the city with a $50,000 building to adorn the beautiful library site owned by the school trustees on South Seventh Street adjoining the High School building. . . .

It thus was generally acknowledged that Terre Haute regarded the church building as a temporary location for the public library. Many still hoped for a generous citizen to step forward with a gift of the money needed to erect a new library building.

In the meantime, library service continued to grow; the Dewey Decimal System of organization was instituted in 1898–99 by Arthur Cunningham of the State Normal School (now Indiana State University) Library; the book holdings of the library grew from 12,772 volumes in 1896 to 19,801 volumes in 1907; and the fiction list was continued as a service in addition to the new card catalog.

About the same time that the Terre Haute Public Library was growing into a recognized force in the city with a building of its own, the Indiana Library Association was taking form. The first meeting was held in Indianapolis on December 30, 1891.[31] Arthur Cunningham was one of the original committee of nine. Though many of the members of the first committee were from college libraries, public librarians became active as their institutions developed. Thus another avenue for broader influence was opened to Terre Haute's expanding library.

Less than seven years elapsed after the move to 119 North Eighth Street before another change of location for the public library occupied the thoughts of Terre Haute's citizens. But that story belongs to the era of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

2

THE PRIDE OF TERRE HAUTE

The citizens of Terre Haute had long dreamed of a new library building. In 1895, the Board of School Trustees had purchased a lot to the south of the High School as a possible location and the remodeled church was regarded as an interim arrangement. A news clipping, preserved in the Community Affairs File of the Vigo County Public Library, states:

> At a meeting of the Thompson Club last night Mr. C. O. Self suggested that in case no person gave a library to the city that A. Carnegie be asked for a building on the same terms on which he has been endowing libraries in other places.

Hence, the idea of a new building was ever-present, even though the library was housed and flourishing at the time.

When the dream promised to become a reality, there still were almost four years of planning and work before the building was ready for use. Therefore, a review of those years is pertinent to a true understanding of the great pride taken in the new building. The first positive step occurred in 1902, when Crawford Fairbanks made it known that he wanted to present a handsome gift to the city. It was possible that the gift be a library building, for, as a very wealthy industrialist and financier, Mr. Fairbanks could well afford it. More than that, he was the son of Henry Fairbanks, who was an early settler of the county, a mayor of the city in his latter years, and a petitioner for the merger of the county and Maclure libraries in the

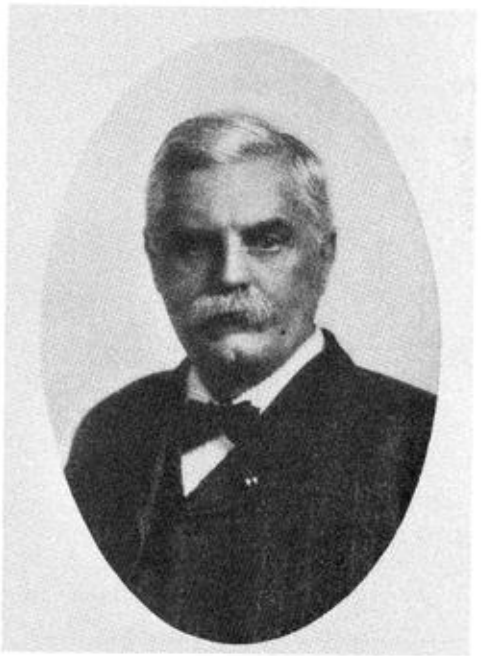
1850s. About the same time, though, there were rumors that someone else was thinking of the same gift. Hence, Crawford Fairbanks, it was reported, gave consideration to splendid free public baths.[1] There were months of suspense-filled waiting.

Finally, on January 26, 1903, the *Terre Haute Gazette* carried an article announcing that a carefully guarded secret was out—Terre Haute was about to receive a magnificent gift of a new public library. Probably it was not as much a secret as the *Gazette* made believe, but it was now affirmed that the hopes of the citizens were to be realized at last. Details were witheld until the donor, Crawford Fairbanks, formally made the offer on February 3, 1903, in a letter to the Common Council of the city. Briefly, the letter offered to build, without expense to the city, a new library building to cost $50,000 on a "suitable" site furnished by the city. A four-member committee named by and including the mayor was to oversee the project from the selection of the site to the furnishing of the building. The offer was to be accepted within 30 days, and actual construction was to be commenced not later than July 1, 1903. The city was to obligate itself to maintain the library perpetually, and the building was to be known as the Emaline[2] Fairbanks Memorial Library in honor of Crawford Fairbanks' mother. The reply was immediate; an ordinance was passed that same evening and announced in the *Terre Haute Gazette* of February 4, 1903, in the following words:

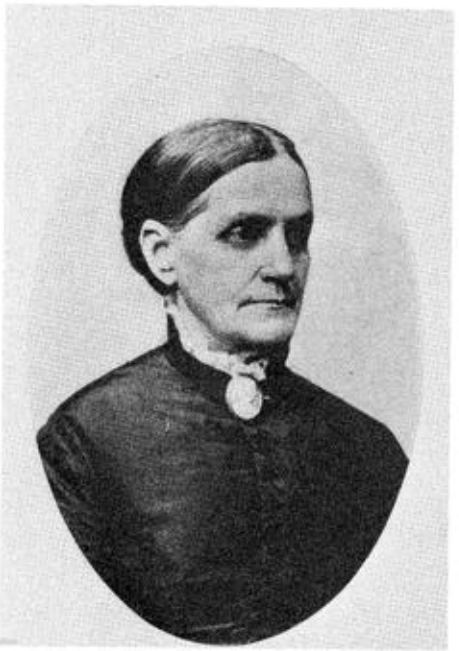
> The prompt and grateful acceptance by the Council of Mr. Crawford Fairbanks' generous gift of a beautiful library building was a matter of course. It is something to which Terre Haute has looked forward for many years. The building will be an architectural ornament to the city. The books it houses will prove a most valuable adjunct to education and general culture; and the noble example thus set by Mr. Fairbanks will, no doubt, inspire others to do something for Terre Haute.

Thus it was that the city received and accepted the offer of the funds to build the new library.

Planning and action started immediately. On February 3, 1903, the day Fairbanks' offer was made known, Col. W. E. McLean offered his personal library of from 800 to 1,200 books to be placed in the new building. On February 4, Demas Deming verbally offered, as a site, ninety-five feet of land fronting on



Crawford Fairbanks



Emeline Fairbanks

Fig. 10. Crawford Fairbanks and his mother Emeline.

the north side of Ohio Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, immediately west of the First Congregational Church. On February 6, this offer was made in writing to the Common Council. Also on February 6, Mayor Steeg named a committee composed of three citizens—Col. W. H. Fairbanks, Capt. A. C. Ford, and Spencer F. Ball—to serve with him in executing Crawford Fairbanks' offer. At the April 7th Council meeting, the Committee recommended two sites: the southwest corner of Seventh and Ohio and the southwest corner of Seventh and Eagle. On May 5, the Committee reported that they had purchased the Seventh and Eagle property (the purchase of ten additional feet was authorized on December 1, making a 150-foot frontage on Seventh Street). Also on May 5, the Committee obtained an agreement from the Board of School Trustees to deed to the city the library property on North Eight Street when the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library was turned over to the School Board. Architects William H. Floyd and Charles E. Scott were employed to design the new building. On October 8, 1903, the contract was let to Noah Brill for the Modern Construction Company. Ground was broken on March 15, 1904—eight and one-half months later than Fairbanks' stipulated date of July 1, 1903, but apparently satisfactory to him.

The laying of the cornerstone on August 10, 1904, was an event of note. The Library Building Committee turned the ceremony over to the Grand Lodge of Masons. Spencer F. Ball, a member of the Committee, wrote the history of the building to be placed in the cornerstone. Col. W. E. McLean gave the oration representing the donor, and Judge Gavin of Indianapolis spoke as the representative of the Masons. The program began with a downtown parade of the Knights Templars and Blue Lodges and continued with music, prayer, and orations leading to the central event, the laying of the cornerstone. Among the items included in the cornerstone, in addition to Mr. Ball's brief history, were lists of officials, pictures of the Fairbanks family, the day's program, a 1904 *City Directory*, and newspapers. Col. McLean was profuse in his praise of the new building plans, and he emphasized his pleasure that it was not a Carnegie building. He said, "Our people have never been found crying in the wilderness for aid from non-resident men of millions."[3] He called the new library another contribution to civic pride.

It is easy for us in retrospect to jump from that impressive ceremony on August 10, 1904, to April 29, 1906, the date of

the informal opening and dedication of the completed building. But when the citizens, who had lived through the days of anticipation, learned that business details would delay occupancy, there were expressions of impatience. It was so unexpected; all had been progressing as planned. Everything was to be completed in April 1906. When the Committee noticed that much building debris needed clearing up, they asked Miss Leatha Paddock, City Librarian, to supervise the work and so prepare the building for dedication. For carrying out this request, Miss Paddock was sharply reprimanded by Mr. Kehoe, secretary of the Board of School Trustees; he indicated that the new building was not yet under the jurisdiction of the Board of School Trustees, hence not under the library staff's management. Mr. Kehoe was interviewed by a member of the *Terre Haute Morning Star* staff and would not admit having talked with Miss Paddock. Mr. Kehoe simply puffed on his cigar when he did not want to answer a question. Even so, a *Star* article on May 1, 1906, indicated that the reprimand and the related events were the true cause of Miss Paddock's resignation, tendered on April 30, 1906. President Neukom, in the same article, was charged with thinking that a man probably would be more satisfactory, anyway.[4] The article continued to say that a deed must be made to the school trustees and that it was Mayor Bidaman's "understanding that there had been an agreement between the city and the School Board that the old library [the Universalist Church building] should be turned over to the city in payment for the lot. . . ."[5] The agreement referred to was the following as reported to the Common Council by the Committee on May 5, 1903:

> The Committee has also obtained agreement from the School Board to deed to the City the present library property on North Eighth Street when the new Fairbanks library is turned over to the School Board.
>
> *Council Proceedings, 1903*

On the same day that the *Star* article was published, Mayor Bidaman made his understanding of the agreement very clear in the following statement to the Council:

> In 1903 when the donation of the Memorial Library was made by the Honorable Crawford Fairbanks, and accepted by the city, an agreement was entered into by and between the Civil City of Terre Haute and the School City of Terre

> Haute, whereby the Civil City would purchase a lot, upon which to build the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, and when the same was completed, would transfer the title in the same to the School City; in return the School City agreed, as compensation therefore, to transfer to the Civil City the title to the old library lot and building, located on North Eighth Street.[6]

But his recommendation that the attorney be empowered to act was placed on file![7] To this day, no deed of transfer has been found. Likewise, there is no record of an attempt to clear up the misunderstanding which led to Miss Paddock's resignation. On May 4, 1906, the Board of School Trustees accepted her resignation, which was effective as of April 30, 1906. In subsequent records, her sudden decision to resign was ascribed to poor health and overwork. At the same meeting the trustees appointed Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes as the new Librarian, effective May 1, 1906, and Miss Florence Crawford was employed as first assistant, effective June 19, 1906.

Clearly the problem of ownership was the business difficulty which was causing the delay in using the new building. The City owned the building and land, but the School Board owned the public library materials and was collecting the taxes for the maintenance of a public library. Yet no move had been made to deed the new property to the school trustees. Finally, the School Board made the first move. At its meeting on June 20, 1906, the Common Council of the city received a written offer from the School Board to assume full responsibility for maintaining a free public library in the new building and promising to keep the fixtures and building "belonging to said Civil City, insured in the name of said Civil City, in the sum of $10,000."[8] The offer was actually accepted by the Council on June 20; but the mayor's approval was needed, and it happened that a special session was held June 21, 1906, to conduct a hearing for charges against the mayor. The nature of these charges is not easily ascertained, but Mayor Bidaman lost his position, and an acting mayor was appointed. The library offer was lost in the exchange. At about the same time, the newspapers carried notes of a movement to appoint a separate library commission (board). Until this was completely decided, there was a reluctance to turn the building over to the Board of School Trustees. Crawford Fairbanks took a hand and found legal obstacles, one of which was

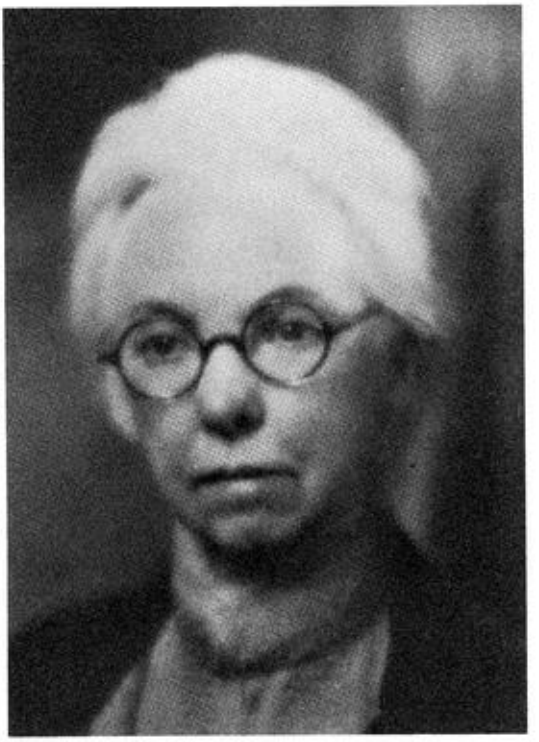


Fig. 11. Sallie C. Hughes, Head Librarian, 1906–27.

that the school trustees had to first relinquish their responsibilities (they levied the taxes). That quieted the demands for a separate board or commission.

The library offer was again considered and passed by the City Council on July 23; this time, the acting mayor, Frank Buckingham, approved it. The "turning over" on July 24 probably was little more than a turning over of the keys. Wiley says that the property on North Eighth Street was sold soon after for $6,500 and the money placed to the credit of the Library Fund. The Trustee's Financial Report, included in the *First Annual Report* of the Librarian, shows an item, "Sale of old library—$7,550." The latter amount probably is correct; and since the Library Fund in the Common Council financial records shows an increase of approximately that amount, it is to be assumed that the money from the old building remained in the library

funds with no deed made to the School Board. The records are ambiguous, also, with regard to the taxes. It was the Board of School Trustees which was empowered to levy taxes; yet records list the Common Council as the tax-levying body for the library until 1910. That year, the Township Advisory Board and the School Board became the levying bodies, and the Library Fund was no longer listed in the Special Funds section of the financial report of the Common Council of the city. Also, early financial reports of the Common Council list the library property, valued at $81,407.38 and again at $81,500, among the city properties under the control of the Board of Public Works.[9] That listing (real estate, furniture, and equipment) was completely dropped some time between 1914 and 1920. So ownership of the property seemed unsettled; the land had been purchased by the city and the building had been given to the city, yet both parties finally proceeded as if it all belonged to the School Board. In his *Forty-Third Annual Report of the Terre Haute Public Schools,* 1906, Superintendent Wiley said:

> So, fortunately, the year closes with one of the most complete library buildings in the country in possession of the School City, in accordance with the provisions of the public library laws of the State, and an ordinance of the City Council of Terre Haute.

The pertinent portion of the law to which Wiley refers is quoted below:

> Any such city in which a free public library may be established in accordance with the terms of this Act may acquire by purchase, or take and hold by gift, or devise, any real estate necessary for . . . the benefit of such library; and all revenues arising therefrom, and the proceeds of the same, if sold, shall be devoted to the use of said library.
>
> Section 3 of the Act of 1881.

At any rate, it was most fortunate that responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the building was well spelled out in the Terre Haute Common Council ordinance. Business difficulties were forgotten, and the School Board willingly assumed its responsibility. There was a flurry of checking by the school architect, Vrydagh, conflicting reports from him and the library architect and the Committee, and a final determination that the building was ready for occupancy. The "old" library was closed

on July 30, 1906, and the removal of materials completed on August 8. President Oscar M. Derry of the Board of School Trustees then proposed a formal opening. At last, Terre Haute was ready for the glamorous evening of August 11, 1906.

It soon was evident that the school trustees had taken the enlarged responsibility firmly in hand—where it was to remain until July 15, 1974. Crawford Fairbanks had spent between $75,000 and $85,000 for the building and equipment—far more than the stipulated $50,000. Yet, throughout the remainder of 1906, there were requests for the painting of a ceiling and such items as screens, rubber floor mats, lights in wall cases, a mirror, and a couch. Actual stack area was also an immediate problem, and more shelves had to be purchased before all the books could be unpacked. By 1909, claims were being made that the roof had leaked from the beginning. A report by Mr. Kehoe of the Board and Rodney W. Leonard, the school architect at that time, pointed to incorrect construction of the heavy red tile roof. Trusses and wood sheeting had been omitted, and the steel construction was weak. There was even danger of collapse. However, it was believed that a new metal roof could be installed over the tile one. Finally, it was decided that the tile roof must be replaced by a metal one, and the Board minutes of March 15, 1912, indicate that the work of replacement was in progress at that time. Again in 1919, shelf space became an acute problem. To solve this, Mrs. Hughes, the Librarian, asked for a mezzanine to be built over the first floor stack area and to have locked cases built at one end to protect rare books. This was a yearly request until the mezzanine was added in 1923–24. With other internal changes in the 1950s, but never an addition, the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building has served as the home of the Terre Haute, and later the Vigo County, Public Library from the 1906 opening to the present.

The Board of School Trustees—remaining the civic body responsible for the institution during its first sixty-eight years from May 20, 1882, to July 15, 1974—saw the library change from a collection of books housed in two second-story rooms to a large building plus satellite buildings or rooms, holding many different types of materials and equipment and giving various services. Likewise, the schools grew in size and complexity; certainly, handling the two institutions presented problems. The idea of a separate board was mentioned but not pursued, and

the one board continued to rule. In the early years, the Board dealt with such details as approval of each application for a borrower's card, decisions on how books were to be rebound, and book by book consideration of purchases. To take care of all the many details, the Board of School Trustees met once a month at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library to consider library matters with the Librarian present; then on March 1, 1910, the Board tried the plan of holding all meetings at the High School office and requesting the Librarian to be present at the meeting held the first Friday of the month. This method was discontinued three months later and a Library, Printing, and Supplies Committee composed of two members of the Board was appointed. A. S. Hathaway and William H. Wiley (elected to the Board after retiring from the superintendency) were the first committee. They considered all library business, reported monthly by the Librarian, and referred only the most important items to the entire Board for action. This plan was continued until August 1, 1915, when all matters were again considered by the entire Board. By then, meetings were held at the school system's Administration Building, and the Librarian attended all regular meetings, usually once a month.

A variety of methods of handling the library business continued to be employed through the years. In 1906, when the new building was opened, three men made up the Board of School Trustees: Adolph Neukom, president; Oscar G. Derry, treasurer; and Thomas M. Kehoe, secretary. On November 2, 1909, two additional board members were elected. In January 1910, there was a five-member Board: Thomas M. Kehoe, George O. Dix, W. A. Ethington, Arthur S. Hathaway, and William H. Wiley.

A trend toward shifting more responsibility to the Librarian, thus alleviating some of the stress on the burdened Board, began after the appointment of Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes as Head Librarian in May 1906. Just one month after her appointment, she presented to the board a set of *Rules and Regulations* for the management of the library. They were adopted on June 15, 1906. Among other points, the *Rules* outlined the library's hours:

Open:	Weekdays—9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sunday—2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed:	New Year's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas
Closed at 12:00 noon:	Memorial Day, Labor Day

These remained the basic hours, though for a time there was an 8:30 a.m. opening and the Sunday closing was changed to 6:00 p.m. As another example of her initiative, Mrs. Hughes asked for and was granted the funds and time to attend the American Library Association meeting at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island, on June 29, 1906. Later that year the Board minutes show that she requested and was granted a trip, expenses paid, through the East to visit book dealers. At that time, she was given the privilege of naming the member of the staff to leave in charge when she was away. Thus began a twenty-year period of strong management by the Head Librarian, Mrs. Hughes.

Until January 22, 1906, the staff consisted of two, and later three, librarians and one custodian. On that date, the Board appointed Miss Grace Davis and Miss Minnie Connor, who had been serving as substitutes for some time, to full–time positions. On January 30, 1906, Miss Amelia Williams, assistant, died. Other changes made at the May 10, 1906, Board meeting have been mentioned. By August the following librarians, shown with their salaries, presided at the formal opening:

(Mrs.) Sallie C. Hughes	$75.00 per month
(Miss) Florence Crawford	$50.00 per month
(Miss) Grace Davis	$50.00 per month
(Miss) Minnie Connor	$40.00 per month

At Mrs. Hughes' request, the Board elected Mrs. Mae Dodson to a regular position at the September 7 meeting; she was to receive $50.00 per month. In fewer than eight months, the number of librarians on the staff grew from three to five, and before August 1, 1907, Miss Edna Neukom was appointed to full–time service, and Miss Emilie Katzenbach was named as a substitute. Thus the foundations for an expanded staff were being laid. The Board had turned staff management over to the Librarian; by the end of the first year, Miss Davis had been named first assistant instead of Miss Crawford, who had been employed by the Board for that position. There were no state standards with mandatory formal training for librarians in the early 1900s, but the Librarian, Mrs. Hughes, soon worked out an extensive program of staff training at the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. Positions were not granted without that training. Applica-

tions for employment were in the nature of an appeal to be permitted to work as an apprentice without pay. After an indeterminant period as an apprentice, the worker was put on the "supply" list and paid $1.50 per day when called upon to substitute for a regular. Octavia B. Eichelberger, widow of Dr. W. E. Eichelberger, wrote to the Board of School Trustees applying for "the privilege of working at the Library."[10] This was the tone of all the applications. The Board passed on each one before the applicant was admitted to apprenticeship, then again before she was "elected" to a regular position. Louise Love Campbell, in a 1975 interview, spoke of the program as a means of training librarians at a time when university training was not readily available. She vividly remembers sitting on the steps, waiting for the library to open so she could start her training in the summer of 1921.

The apprentice training was often on a one-to-one basis; but if there were more than one applicant (Louise Campbell stated that she was in a class with Madge Townsley and Hilda Bledsoe), they were handled as a class by Grace Davis, who did much of the basic training and instruction in cataloging. She would then arrange for the students to work individually with other staff members in various jobs. Apprentices worked full time and received no pay until they were called upon to substitute. Because the early branches (mini-libraries or circulation points established by the main library) operated almost entirely as separate units with varying procedures, apprentices had to work in each and every branch before their training was complete. They then were listed as substitutes in the order in which they were accepted as apprentices. The climate for training was so strong that, once on the staff, members took brief summer leaves to attend summer courses. The Indiana Library Commission classes at the State Library encouraged summer study after employment by accepting as students only those who were employed in a library. In 1910, the *Fourth Annual Report* records that Miss Connor attended the library school at Chautauqua, New York, and Miss Crawford, the summer term at Columbia University, New York City; they each were granted a month's leave. Others did likewise.

Some members of the staff went beyond the basic training. Miss Ruth Adamson, Librarian at Montrose Branch in 1914–15, was accepted by the Carnegie Library School in Pittsburgh for

the year 1915–16; the secretary of the Indiana Public Library Commission, Henry Sanborn, wrote a letter of recommendation.[11] This was a year-long course for children's librarians—only twenty-nine were selected from the entire United States. Miss Adamson received a certificate at the end of the year, and in 1974 she noted that she was the only surviving member of that class of 1916.[12] After the year in Pittsburgh, Miss Adamson did library work in Evansville, Indiana, and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, but went back to Terre Haute in 1923. Other librarians expanded their training by working in various libraries: Hazel Bungard spent the year 1917–18 at the South Bend public library; Hazel Armstrong, who started as an apprentice in Terre Haute, went on to get training and experience in the Muncie Normal library, then returned to the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library in 1920 and later moved to the post of Head Librarian at Indiana State Normal College.

By July 1920, Mrs. Sallie Hughes, who listed her own training as "private instruction," had built the atmosphere for training to the point that the Board passed a resolution "that no assistant librarian receive the maximum salary provided by the schedule until she has had six weeks' training in a library school." In 1920–21, another way of training aspiring librarians was introduced. Student help was used at Wiley and Warren schools, giving the students one-half credit for the work. This served to recruit members for the apprenticeship classes; the apprentice requirement was not dropped until the 1940s.

Some fringe benefits and vacations were considered and granted to staff early in the history of the library. When in 1912 the Board asked that the library be open on holidays, they voted to pay the librarian on duty $2.50 in addition to her regular salary. Then on June 6, 1913, the Board passed the following resolution:

> That one day each month and two weeks vacation besides the holidays be allowed each member of the library force with pay, and other time off to be referred to the librarian and any time made up to be as she directs.

The June 17, 1921, Board minutes show the Board granting a three-week vacation each year to the Head Librarian.

Sometime during the period of 1924–26, Mrs. Hughes summarized the staff employment regulations as follows:

STAFF RULES

Librarians must be High School graduates, must be between the ages of 18 and 40, must have six months practical work and one term at an accredited Summer Library school to qualify for a position. The applicants must be appointed by the Board but recommended by the Librarian.

Salary schedules are from $80.00 per month to $135.00 for the seventh year. Assistants not having summer school work will receive $60.00 less per year.

Assistant librarians are allowed three weeks vacation after the first year, one day each month and the holidays with pay; also three days in case of death in the immediate family and sick pay to the amount of fifty dollars during the year.[13]

So the foundations were laid for the administration and staff of the Terre Haute public library to guide the architectural "Pride of Terre Haute" into becoming the citizen's dream—a cultural and educational center.

3

A PART OF THE COMMUNITY

"To those who have shall be given," said Mrs. Hughes in her first annual report, August 1907, as she described the wealth of materials which were given the new library. There had been gifts in the very early years—books, the Wood Nymph sculpture, the 100 cabinet photographs of prominent Terre Haute citizens, and a few others. But there was a veritable procession of bequests once the new building was a certainty. Col. W.E. McLean led that procession by announcing that he would give his personal library when the new building was completed: he made the announcement on the same day that the gift of the new building was made known. Col. McLean owned between 800 and 1,200 volumes in handsome bindings—one of the finest personal libraries in the city. That the books actually reached the shelves of the new library is not certain, but the annual report of 1906–07 lists a gift of $1,000 from Col. McLean's estate. The final payment on this legacy was made in 1909, and a memorial collection was made of the books purchased with the money.

Other gifts and donors were announced before the building was opened. On June 2, 1903, the Common Council of the city passed a resolution that the oil painting of Ft. Harrison be donated to the Board of School Trustees to hang in the new building. According to letters read at the board meeting of June 30, 1906, a bust of Sen. Daniel W. Voorhees was given through the Board to the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library by a group of citizens. (Apparently, the details of ownership did not disturb the citizens, for the letter presenting the bust to the Board for the Fairbanks Library was dated May 1906—two months before the building was turned over to the Board.) Again, in

August 1906, before the building was opened to the public, the Ft. Harrison Club gave a set of the *Congressional Record*; and William C. Ball, Spencer F. Ball, and James S. Barcus gave a bound file of the *Terre Haute Gazette* for 1869–1904. (The *Gazette* was taken over by the *Tribune* in 1904.)[1]

After the building was opened, the gifts continued to come; and they were rare, important, valuable additions to the collection, not the result of an attic housecleaning yielding light fiction and worn volumes. It is impossible to list here all of the known gifts and donors; yet at the risk of missing many outstanding ones, it seems imperative to call attention to a few. The Fairbanks family did not end their generosity with financing the building and furniture. Crawford Fairbanks' older brother, Col. William Fairbanks, served on the building committee; then as time went by, his nephew, Henry F. Montagnier, became an extravagant donor of rare materials. Henry, the son of Frank Montagnier and Crawford's sister, Pauline, spent much time abroad and developed a great interest in rare books and maps. He purchased many of them as gifts for the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, often having them shipped directly from European bookshops. One of his early gifts was a map of Swiss origin, purchased at "great expense" in Territet, Geneva. It showed the Northwest Territory, or New France and Canada, at the time of *Alice of Old Vincennes*. It was made in 1755, probably engraved or etched on copper.[2] Such was the quality of the materials that were received through many years from Henry F. Montagnier. Sometimes he purchased items for Crawford Fairbanks to give to the library; and for a time, they collaborated in gathering a collection of Americana. Many of the works were rare, having been published before 1800. They included Hannah Adams, *History of New England, 1608–1785,* published in Dedham, Mass., in 1799; Peter Kalm, *Travels Into North America; Containing Its Natural History and a Circumstantial Account of Its Plantations, etc.*, translated by J. B. Forster in two volumes, published by Lowndes of London in 1772; and Phillip Pittman, *Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi, with a Geographical Description of That River,* published by Nourse of London in 1770.

In 1911, Mrs. Hughes placed the Fairbanks–Montagnier gift materials in a special collection labeled with the two names. Mr. Fairbanks soon asked to withdraw his name, and Mr. Montagnier

suggested that the collection not be kept separate for more than a few years. At this writing, much of the collection is in the Local History Room of the VCPL with other valuable materials. However, some of the most unusual items, such as the Lord Byron manuscripts, are in restricted storage cases. Office files contain letters showing shipments from Mr. Montagnier as late as 1925. In 1906–07, Crawford Fairbanks' sister-in-law, Mrs. Edward P. Fairbanks, gave the library a valuable painting, Elihu Vedder's "Lazarus." The Woman's Department Club gave a bronze cast of Harriet Hosmer's "Browning Hands" to the library in 1922; the club had received it as a gift from the sculptor, and decided that the library was the best location for such a valuable work of art.

On February 11, 1913, a picture of Robert Burns was hung and dedicated with much ceremony by the Caledonian Society, the members of which were of Scottish ancestry. That Scottish celebration and the picture are still remembered in the 1970s. There was dancing and singing in true Scotch fashion. Aunt Jane Lauder danced the Highland fling, and bagpipes were played. The ceremony and celebration took place in the Reading Room, later the Reference Room, of the library. Miss Ruth Adamson, a former staff member, recalled that Sir Harry Lauder of Scotland was present for the event. The picture of Robert Burns remained between the two sets of windows on the north wall of the Reading Room for many years.

Other gifts received by the library and their donors are listed below:

CRAWFORD FAIRBANKS—Portraits of Henry and Emeline Fairbanks by Anton Schade
MRS. BLYTHING—plaster casts of Diana and Lord Byron
MRS. AUSTIN—bust of Col. R. W. Thompson

1906–07 SCHOOLCHILDREN—"Irridescence of the Shallow Stream," painting by J. Ottis Adams ($300)
ART SECTION OF THE WOMEN'S CLUB—650 teaching photographs of Italian art. "Singing Boys of Della Robbia" were framed and hung in children's room

1907–08 J. W. CRUFT—170 rare books and "Long's Peak, Colorado," painting by James F. Gookins
MRS. A. N. SMITH—portfolios of "Illustrated Terre Haute"

1909–10 DR. EICHELBERGER AND DR. SWAFFORD—private medical collections moved to the library by the Vigo County Medical Society
CARL RIPPE—28 German and French books

1913 SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—Joseph Gilbert collection of 50 years of early Terre Haute newspapers

1915–18 EUGENE V. DEBS—100 French books and a set of Luther Burbank's works ($250 value)
MRS. JOHN MACK—collection of cartoons dating back to 1760
MRS. J. P. WORRELL—rare pictures in oil or watercolor and etchings

These gifts suggest the concept which leading Terre Haute citizens had of their public library; it certainly was to be culturally centered with a high educational level. In all fairness, it must be noted that this concept was partially a product of the times. Terre Haute had no art gallery, no historical museum, and no genealogy society. For that reason, the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building, a fine architectural work, was the logical cultural as well as educational center of the city. So it was there that the citizens took their treasures, and it was there that they would look for the records of man's finer hours. It is important to note that these treasured gifts came from, and reflected the dreams of, the more prosperous citizens of Terre Haute, its founders and leaders.

Meanwhile, the librarians and trustees were using the budget to build a collection which would meet the needs of all Terre Haute inhabitants, including the children. This was the first time the public library had the facilities with which to serve children, so the children's room and its collection received much attention. In the annual reports, the Librarian spoke of the children's room as being the "greatest pride." By putting only "good" books on the shelves, she hoped to mold character. In the *Fifth Annual Report,* 1911–12, Mrs. Hughes expressed a concern for the juvenile collection:

> The juvenile department has been sadly neglected this year [;] not more than one hundred books have been added while the demand has greatly increased.

Actually, only 1,008 new books were purchased for the total collection that year, with 504 old books being discarded. Ex-

penditures for books fluctuated; during the first year in the new building, $5,865.91 was spent for books and periodicals, a larger item than the payroll. The next year, only $1,501.58 was spent on acquisitions; expenditures stayed in the $1,500 bracket for each of the next three years, and moved up only a little, to $1,936.24, in 1911–12. Hence, Mrs. Hughes did have reason to worry about additions to the collection. There were two plausible causes for these lean years: (1) the new roof was talked of for several years and put on in 1912, and (2) the possibility that the Board of School Trustees preferred to "collect" money rather than books. This "complaint" was offered by Mrs. Hughes in a letter to the Carnegie Commission, from which she unsuccessfully tried to secure funds for a Carnegie branch building. The Commission had questioned the large balance being carried.[3] (Apparently, the Board of School Trustees still kept a firm hand on the budget.) In 1913–14, the amount spent for books was $3,280.19, and the annual report for that year claims that 6,000 books were purchased for the juvenile collection alone. (That number might be questioned when matched with the expenditures, but the collection was expanded.) The Librarian was pleased to note that circulation boomed that year.

With regard to the adult collection, Mrs. Hughes started to work on rounding out the reference collection immediately upon her appointment as Head Librarian. During one of her trips east, in 1906, she searched out and purchased sets of magazines which were indexed in the *Abridged Poole Index* (a forerunner of the *Reader's Guide*). At a curio dealer's shop, she found and purchased a five-volume set of *Religious Customs of the Various Nations of the World*; it was a translated French edition dated 1733. (Mrs. Hughes was proud of having found that rare set.) Board minutes show authorization to purchase standard reference works—the Board continued to consider purchases title by title. Many of the reference works purchased then are still standard titles, new editions of which are currently in use.

In the early days, classics in literature were often purchased in sets; in 1908, the annual report states that the sets of Lowell, Holmes, Thoreau, Irving, *Arabian Nights,* Gautier, Musset, and *Library of Home Economics* were the most important books added. A perusal of the "Library Notes" and other lists of new books published weekly in the newspapers indicates, however, that through the years subjects were varied and changed with the times. For example, in the early 1900s, there were books of

fiction, literature, sociology, politics, domestic arts, early Indiana history, education, vocational training, and electrical work. The second annual report records the purchase of 100 German books, which were in great demand. Later gifts and purchases of German, French, and Spanish books led to a sizeable collection of foreign language materials. A collection of medical books was begun in 1906 as a result of a written agreement dated September 18, 1906, between the Board of School Trustees and the Vigo County Medical Society. By July 1908, about 700 volumes were collected; others were added by gifts as the years went by. There never was time to catalog all the books, but they were put in order and as many as possible were cataloged. These books along with nineteen medical journals and framed photographs of early physicians formed the medical library housed in the northwest corner room of the basement.

The new building was opened in 1906 with a collection of 141 newspapers and magazines in the reading room. By the year 1908–09, there were 142 magazines and 15 newspapers, and by 1921 there was a total of 320 periodicals (110 of which were donated). The annual reports show that by 1908 the purchase of back files of all magazines listed in the *Abridged Poole Index* was complete. Final purchases in 1908 included *Geographical Journal, National Geographic Magazine, National Review, International Studio, Everybody's* and *Political Science Quarterly*. It was in January 1908, that the practice of purchasing duplicate copies of some magazines for circulation was started. Seven titles were selected the first year, including *Century, Craftsman, Review of Reviews,* and *World's Work*. A look at some of the titles carried for Reading Room use shows a wide variety of subject matter. They included *Atlantic Monthly, Canadian Magazine, New England Journal of Education, Popular Science Monthly, School Review, Youth's Companion*. A list of newspapers carried has not been found, but there is reason to believe that they represented various cities throughout the country.

Several other non-book materials collections were begun in those early, ambitious years. The area used by Extension Services in the 1970s, along the west side of the basement, was set aside for public documents, many of which were cataloged. A large file of mounted pictures for lending was developed—3,000 for the first year and approximately 7,000 by 1910. News clippings with local emphasis were mounted and filed. The col-

lection of bound files of leading magazines and the *Terre Haute Tribune* was begun in 1906.

To one steeped in the idea that public library use of non-print materials is relatively recent, the acquisition and use of several types of them in the early 1900s is an enlightening discovery. A picture file of 3,000 items in 1907 had a circulation of 1,165 the following year. Mounted pictures were among the first visual materials. Another service ahead of its time was that of a stereoscope with boxed stereograph "tours" for home borrowing. Lists of related reading were also included. Stereographs were common, and Emeline Fairbanks Library stocked many of them for viewing in the children's room. The following statement verifies that as a common practice:

> Public libraries filed views in large oak cabinets and reserved special corners for those who cared to spend an afternoon touring the world.[4]

Unusual was the lending of a stereoscope for home use.

As a viewing instrument, the stereoscope was commonly known in the early part of the 20th century and still remembered today. Less well-known was the Radiopticon (a form of opaque projector or magic lantern using such materials as postcards) purchased by the library in 1913–14 and used to advantage in the story hours. Knowledge of this piece of equipment is difficult to find, and much searching did not yield a picture of model #481 which the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial

Fig. 12. Radioptican similar to the Radiopticon purchased in 1913–14.

Library is said to have purchased from the H.C. White Co. of North Bennington, Vermont. However, a picture of Radioptican[5] #431 was furnished by Weston Woods Studio, Weston Woods, Conn. Model #481 was illuminated by carbon arc and Model #431 by incandescent bulbs. According to the Board minutes, members were invited to a demonstration of the Radioptican on Saturday, June 20, 1914, at 8:00 p.m. Then on October 16, 1914, the Board minutes record a request by a club to borrow the Radioptican for a meeting. The Board granted the request, providing a fee of fifty cents be paid and the equipment be used under the direction of one of the librarians. It is easy to see in these activities the foundation of the extensive program of lending audiovisual materials and equipment in the VCPL of the 1970s.

The new library was rapidly acquiring a varied collection of cultural and informational materials, but the Head Librarian had never intended to stop with merely collecting materials. Mrs. Hughes was intensely interested in getting the entire city —even the county—involved in using them. She had been Head Librarian only a few months when in late 1906 she arranged to offer a collection of fifty books to any school desiring it. Mrs. Hughes went to the schools, telling them about the public library and distributing applications for cards. Then schools were allowed larger collections of books depending upon the number of applications returned. Some of the schools already had books of their own (purchased by teachers and the proceeds from concerts, exhibitions, and other sources), but they did not have anyone to take care of them. Hence, Mrs. Hughes conceived the idea of school librarians to help with circulation, classification, and mending. At the January 1907 Board meeting, she proposed that a "branch" be established at Rea School. The board agreed, and the library was assigned a cloak room on the second floor with a "dry goods box" for a table. A librarian went to the school each Friday to organize, mend, and check out books. The venture was successful from the standpoint of teacher approval, community acceptance, and circulation. From that time on, the growth of branches was rapid. The story of that growth is best told in an article by Mrs. Hughes published in the *Terre Haute Tribune* on July 6, 1924.

Fig. 13. Newspaper article on development of branch libraries.

Sunday, July 6, 1924

BRANCH LIBRARIES HAVE RAPID GROWTH

Terre Haute Now Has One of Finest Library Systems in Middle West

Editor's Note—Recently when librarians of the city tendered members of the school board a reception at the library, it was pointed out in the addresses that the excellent system of branch libraries which have been established throughout the city in connection with the public schools under the supervision of Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, librarian, was one of the great factors in the success of the public library here and had developed a system of public libraries which was a big advertisement to Terre Haute and one which was referred to throughout the middle west as a model library system. The Tribune has asked Mrs. Hughes to tell the story of the development of public libraries in Terre Haute.

By Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes
Librarian Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library

As the years go by schools are being used more and more as community centers; the public library has also been searching out new ways of usefulness and influence. The idea had been gaining of taking the books to the people, of having books read rather than stored.

In August, 1906, the Terre Haute public library threw off its old dress (the old Universalist church at 119 North Eighth Street) and put on its new one of stone and marble and became Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

With a new building new ideas came to the front and in January, 1907, the suggestion was made to the board of school trustees, under which body we functioned, that we open a branch library at Rea school, which was about ten squares from the main library. This was in a locality where many had little in their homes in the way of books and magazines. The board "did not exactly know just what we wanted" but said to go ahead and try it out. Rea had a large number of books, about 400, covered with lime and dirt from the building; some were usable, some needed binding, some ready for the junk heap, many had to be mended. We were given a room on the second floor, long and narrow (a cloak room), one window to the west, the sun beating in. We shelved one side, used a dry goods box for a table, and borrowed a chair; these with a dater and some cards completed the branch. We got the old books on the shelves, bought a few new ones and went to work. We opened Friday of each week, giving out books at recess time, noon and after school, but the rushes became so great that changes had to be made.

The teachers were not very enthusiastic, wondering what we were going to do with "their books" and gave us a very reserved welcome at first. After finding out the value of the service to the children we were given permission to have the children come in for a few minutes at their study period; a regular schedule was adopted, each class knowing just when it was to go to the library.

We have now won over our teachers, patrons, and children and in 1923 this one day service circulated in nine months 9,177 books. We feel that much good has been accomplished.

The history of Rea is similar to that of other sub-branches and in the next few years one day branches were opened at Collett, Montrose, Fairbanks, Deming, Sandison, Crawford, Cruft and Harrison. We no longer had to ask to have these branches put in, but were asked to establish them and work was made easier for us all along the line and more conveniences supplied.

Montrose Branch.

The first real branch was opened July 24, 1914, in the Montrose school; first it was housed in the hall and small office, then moved to the office, then to a brick store room on Seventeenth and Franklin streets, then back to the southwest corner room, an outside entrance made and a very up-to-date library established. Through all its ups and downs it has continued to flourish and is today a community library, service its watchword. Last year 26,843 books were circulated, the reading room well patronized and the place had an air of satisfaction generally. When mention was made of moving it that the school might have more room, the patrons rose as one and asked that it not be interfered with; that they could not do without it at all.

McLean.

The Garfield branch was opened December 15, 1914, in a room at Garfield high school, serving both the school and the public. Garfield becoming crowded and the McLean Junior high being completed, where a special room had been built for a library, the books and other equipment were moved on July 30, 1914. Here we have a lovely room with all the conveniences and an excellent collection of books. For a number of years this branch ran far ahead of others but now has many competitors but still is a leader; the circulation last year was 33,739 and a great number of readers are cared for and much serious reference work done. Last year a plan was arranged whereby the library was to be kept open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to secure for all the greatest service. An extra assistant was appointed at that time. McLean library is certainly on the map.

Deming Branch.

After a checkered career Deming comes out of the scramble with flying colors. This one-day branch was made into a three-day branch and continued as such until the Warren school was built. Tiring of a cloak room and dark halls and liking the new attractive room built for us at Warren, the library was moved over there, leaving a one-day branch at Deming.

The thought was that the old patrons would divide themselves between Warren and McLean. Nothing of the kind happened; they read the old books, felt abused and Warren had her own following. The use of the library became so great at Deming that a three-day branch was started Sept. 7, 1920.

Wiley High School Library.

Many times had the question

of a library at Wiley high been talked of but we were always confronted with the fact that there was no room available and no money. In 1920 the agitation again arose and the principal decided to give us a small room upstairs, which, fairly well equipped, was opened January 26, 1920. In just a year or so it was more than crowded and its usefulness having been established, last year a fine large room on the first floor was given us; the room was made attractive by fresh paint and sunshine and supplied with modern conveniences.

This room is being used almost to its capacity as its large circulation each month will attest.

Garfield High.

This library has been in use less than two years, well used and much appreciated. The teachers are enthusiastic and helpful and we feel that never again will we have a high school in Terre Haute without a library. The room, though large, is so crowded that a new room has been arranged for the coming year where much better work may be done. The unaccounted for service rendered by these high school libraries is enormous as well as that of the regular service. A noticeable fact in this connection is that the present librarian is the one who started the first branch library in Terre Haute.

Scott Branch.

At the time the Scott junior high was built a large light room on the southwest corner was planned for a library; an outside entrance was made and the library was used, not only by the school, but by the public. The books from the Greenwood school library had been moved over there, new ones added and the library for use was opened April 1, 1919, from 12:30 to 8 p.m.

Last year an assistant was added so that better service might be given the school and the circulation has been steadily increasing. Open now 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Warren Branch.

When Warren school was built a room on the southeast corner was allotted the library. It is bright and sunny and a cheerful place for so many whose homes are drab. We see here more foreigners than in any other place in the city, Roumanian, Slovakians, Hungarians, Spaniards, French and many others. All are eager to learn "American" and through the children their parents are reached. A delightful cooperation exists between the school and the library, the circulation is large and we feel that here we have one of our best centers of Americanization.

A new room in the southwest corner was painted and made into a model library with the many things they have so long been denied. They responded by coming in numbers and many months they have shown the largest circulation of any of the public branches. For 1923 the circulation was 29,789, and will be larger this year.

Greenwood.

This branch has had about the same career as Deming: a one day branch, a three day branch, then moved to Scott junior high, where a new lovely room had been built purposely for a library; a one day branch left at Greenwood with a few heartaches and complaints and a new three day branch opened the next year. Greenwood reaches a community in a pocket of the city, cut off from many things that others have. They love the library and the things it brings into their lives and while serving a small community it reaches a very appreciative one. Many an evening ten to twelve "big boys" are to be found at the reading tables or studying their lessons. Their sisters are not far away.

Sandison.

This library had been used as a one day branch for a number of years when it was opened as a three day branch, Sept. 6, 1921. An inside room was used until last year when the new annex was built, taking over the children from Sheridan school. At this time the board had an outside entrance made separating the library entirely from the school and had the inside painted, walls and woodwork.

It has shown a healthy growth and is forging ahead and seems to be much appreciated in that locality.

Vocational School.

At Gerstmeyer Vocational school a two-day branch was opened about the middle of the year, accommodating many readers of the periodicals, but not circulating many books as there were not many books in the library; it was just a beginning. In the remodeling of the building for the Gestmeyer technical school to house both the boys and girls, a new library room, light and commodious has been planned. With new books and up-to-date fittings I see for this library a great future.

The question has been asked, "Are you not afraid to start so many branches for fear of hurting your own circulation?" Wherever we add a branch we note a corresponding increase in circulation and more people have been served. September 1, of this year, four more branches are to be opened for three days per week; a large room at Harrison is to be made over for a library.

At Lange a new room is being built in the annex; this not being completed we will use a large room on the southwest corner for this year.

A branch at Cruft in the new annex will be opened as soon as the building is finished. Crawford will have the distinction of having the only outside library housed in a building of its own. There the annex will be used and will be a fine place for a community library, at the same time being near to the school and annex. These libraries will be open certain days from 12:30 to 3 p.m. They will be fitted with some of the newest books, the old standards and reference books and a good line of periodicals; these magazines will circulate all but the current number.

From small beginnings to 14 branch libraries, well patronized, is our record in 18 years and much is to be done in the future. We hope to see every school with a library and librarian in the near future.

The board has been most generous in the face of lack of money and other discouragements and is to be highly commended on their faith in our city. No new school has been built for several years that a library is not a part of the plan, thanks to the board.

The use of the word "branch" at the time is confusing; at first it was applied to the Rea School service, started in January 1907, and involving the time of a library staff member one day a week. News articles and annual reports referred to the first branch as being opened at Montrose School on July 29, 1914.[6] The problem of just what constituted a branch must have been plaguing librarians throughout the country; for about 1927 the American Library Association defined a branch as an:

> Auxiliary library complete in itself, having its own permanent collection of books, . . . either occupying a separate building or housed in a school, and administered as an integral part of the library system, i.e. by a paid staff. To rank as a branch the hours of opening should approximate those of the central library.[7]

So as the years went by, Montrose was regarded as the first "real" branch, and service to the community as well as the school was regarded as necessary for a "real" branch. Libraries serving only students or other special groups were called special libraries. These included the services at Wiley High School, Garfield High School, Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, and Union Hospital, though they were referred to as branches.

The development of all the branches is not completely traced even in the article by Mrs. Hughes in the *Tribune*. The pattern was intricate and ever changing: sub-branches (so named because the hours did not approximate those of the main library) became three-day branches or were moved to a new location and then sometimes restored to the first location. As an example, the library in Garfield High School was opened on December 15, 1914, to both students and community, then moved on December 14, 1917, to McLean Departmental School, where a new room with all conveniences including an outside entrance, had been built. However, in 1921 or 1922, a special library was opened at Garfield High School for pupils only. These constant changes were made on the basis of need and available locations. The financial management of the branches, sub-branches, and special libraries in the schools was as varied as their establishment. In some, the public library paid the librarian, the janitor, and the utilities and furnished library equipment, books, magazines, and supplies. In others the school assumed one or more of these expenses. Books were purchased by Garfield and

Wiley High Schools and Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, where the libraries served the schools only. Gerstmeyer High School divided the expense of books between the school and the public library. For all other branches, books and periodicals were purchased by the public library. Most of the branches spent only about $100 per year on books. (It seemed a small amount when a retired branch librarian made a statement to that effect, but financial records verify her statement.) Hence, the greatest branch expense was the salaries of the librarians. These were paid by the public library until 1947, when the schools assumed the expense of the librarians at Garfield and Wiley High Schools and Woodrow Wilson Junior High School.

In addition to branches which called for staff as well as books, there were deposit stations—places where books were left—but no librarian was sent to manage them. These changed very rapidly, depending upon the population concerned. Stations were established at the Boys' Club, orphans' and old ladies' homes, factories, stores, fire houses, some schools, and any other place desiring them. There grew to be no need to sell people on them; probably they took the initiative and asked for stations, even branches, wherever there was a need. In the same way all agencies were discontinued or changed as needed.

By the fall of 1927, twenty years after the first sub-branch was opened at Rea School, the following agencies were listed:

Branches

Deming	Montrose
Gerstmeyer	Sandison
Lange	Scott
McLean	Warren

Sub-branches

Crawford	Harrison
Cruft	Lincoln
Greenwood	Washington

Special libraries

Garfield	Woodrow Wilson
Wiley	Union Hospital

Deposit stations

Five elementary schools	Fairbanks Home
Crittenden Home	Rose Old Ladies Home

All of these agencies contributed to the ever-increasing home circulation and to the satisfaction of Mrs. Hughes' goal to get books to the people.

The establishment of branches also helped achieve Mrs. Hughes' goal of service to children, a service that was emphasized from the day the staff moved into the new building, with its unequaled facilities for children. The county, township, and association libraries of the early 19th century were kept in offices, in homes of businessmen, or even in meeting rooms of men's societies. These were places where children could not go to borrow books, even if there had been books for them; books were not purchased for children. The first home of the School Board library, the second-story location on Main Street, was still inaccessible to children. Perhaps the church building on North Eight Street was a little easier to reach, but citizens who were children at the time remembered in the 1970s the high stools designed for newspaper reading in the public area and a high check-out desk with a stern librarian (Mrs. Hughes and Miss Paddock were sometimes described in that way). Limitations of space had made provision for children in that building impossible. So the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library offered the first real facilities for children; they even had their own low checkout desk. Susan Ball's account of the new children's room emphasizes the charts, bulletins, and drawings devised for the opening night.[8] One outstanding set of charts simulated steps or ladders. The first rung of one was *Mother Goose* and the top rung was Stevenson's *Garden of Verses* with titles of books of intermediate reading difficulty on intermediate rungs.

This was only one of several imaginative charts devised by Grace Davis to attract the children. In purchasing new materials, the librarians tried to support the school curriculum; this was especially true in the branches. One definite instance of this was the required reading list instituted by the schools in 1913–14; the public library purchased a large number of the books, and the circulation figures jumped from 139,887 to 190,952. Perhaps the most highly publicized service to children, and certainly Mrs. Hughes' fondest dream,[9] was the offering of story hours. Miss Minnie Connor (who later became Mrs. O'Toole) told the first story at the Fairbanks building in January 1907. The importance of that first story hour is reflected in an obituary notice in the *Terre Haute Tribune,* July 10, 1974:

> Mrs. Minnie O'Toole, 90, 214 Glendora Street, Long Beach, California, died at 6:30 a.m., Monday. She was formerly of Terre Haute and was originator of the Children's Story Hour at Emeline Fairbanks Library.

As the program progressed, other librarians took turns telling stories; librarians from the main library went to the schools to tell stories; and branch libraries added story hours whenever possible. The main library held summer sessions at Steeg and Collett Parks, even to lending books at the parks. At times the records show as many as eighty-five in attendance.

Owing to heavy work in all areas, the story hour was dropped in 1908 and not mentioned again until 1912–13. In 1912, Miss Conner took courses in children's work at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, and Miss Rena Clark attended the University of Illinois summer school; that fall they were assigned to the juvenile department as the Children's Librarian and her assistant, respectively. Story hours were resumed that year and,

Fig. 14. Story hour in Steeg Park.

not counting lapses for illnesses, continued without further breaks. Beginning in 1913, the use of the Radiopticon to illustrate stories provided added interest.

Story hours opened the way to other programs for children —butterfly displays, essay contests, extensive Book Week programs, and training classes in the use of the library and the magazine indexes. Even at its beginning, the children's program of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library received praise from other libraries. The Children's Librarian of Portland (Oregon is assumed) arrived in Terre Haute for a teachers' meeting in May 1907 (*Terre Haute Tribune,* May 5, 1907). On the same visit, she told delightful stories to the children at the library. She had high praise for the cooperation of the public library and the schools; her praise was deserved for the program continued to expand through the years. In reporting an increase of 92,464 juvenile circulation in 1914–15 over that of 98,488 the year before, Mrs. Hughes said, "Realizing that this is the most vital of all the work we are doing, the increase is most gratifying." This was the attitude with which the librarians regarded their work with the children of the community.

Despite the interest in children, adults were not passed over; the needs of the adult community were recognized and met in many ways. Not only was reference work done, but it was invited. Reference work for club programs and talks predominated in the first year according to the annual report; in 1909–10, heavy use of reference services by students from the Normal School (now Indiana State University) was reported; and in 1914–15, the annual report said, "The use of the telephone by business men for securing statistical and other assistance has steadily increased. . . ." Again in 1917–18, reference work was reported to be given over largely to current problems and business questions. Actually, reference was a large and challenging sector of service to the community even though it was conducted from the "delivery counter" without a special reference department.

The use of the Club Room for community meetings began with a request for a meeting room by the Woman's Club on November 16, 1906. The Board referred the request to the Librarian. Whether or not that request was granted is not in available records; but from that time on, community organizations of all types used the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Club Room. The 1908–09 annual report indicates that six dif-

ferent clubs, plus numerous committees, used the room each month. In 1916, the Club Room was used regularly by seven clubs and by others on special occasions. The Club Room, and often the entire library, was also used for art exhibits. Some of the exhibitors were the Terre Haute Art Association; Indiana Artists; Chicago groups; C. A. Slade; and Fred Nelson Vance of Crawfordsville. The housing and organizing of the Vigo County Medical Society Library, referred to earlier, was another service. A special corner in the reading room was set up for foreign language books and simple histories; this was done as a service to foreign-born citizens.

In 1918, the library led the movement to collect books for soldiers and sailors; 4,082 books were shipped to army posts. This was followed by collecting records of the soldiers and wartime events, especially clippings about local men.

Careful and ingenious publicity kept the services of the library before the public. Mrs. Hughes visited the Kiwanis Club, presented library cards to all the members, and urged them to use the telephone for reference aid. Book marks listing books related to shows in town were printed and distributed. The visits to schools have been discussed. News articles were profuse; there were weekly book lists as well as feature articles. Grace Davis, in 1918, wrote "A Tale of Love and War" in which she used the names of sixty-eight books.

By 1927, the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library had become an integral part of the community.

4

BEHIND THE SCENES

The public library of Terre Haute moved into the new building in August 1906 with a collection of 19,801 books, 141 periodical subscriptions, and at least two works of art. By 1924, there were 76,553 books, 330 periodical subscriptions, more than 8,000 mounted pictures and 2,000 stereographs with stereopticons for viewing, a government document collection, a medical collection, a large file of local history clippings, and an uncounted, but large, collection of works of art.

In 1906, the new building was the one center for distribution and use of those materials. By 1924, there were twenty-nine additional agencies offering countless services designed to aid in the use of the library materials. This growth was not automatic with the years, but the result of foresight and work. The Head Librarian and her assistants had plans and dreams; they knew about the library world and set about becoming a part of it. It was that attention to methods, procedures, and new ideas which helped the institution to become an essential part of the community.

In an interview regarding those early years of development, Miss Ethel Hughes, daughter of Mrs. Sallie Hughes, was asked what her mother regarded as her most outstanding accomplishments. She named four things: open shelves, reserve lists, story hours, and branches.[1] When Mrs. Hughes took the position as Head Librarian, these were dreams only—dreams of service.

In 1906, "open shelves" (permitting the public free access to the shelves of books) was a very controversial concept. Miss Leatha Paddock, Librarian from 1895 to 1906, wrote in a 1904 account, "Open shelves, except fiction,"[2] but Miss Hughes claims

open shelves were first instituted by her mother.[3] In fairness to Miss Paddock, it should be said that probably the reference shelves and perhaps nonfiction were open to the public in the former church building. There is no question, however, that all the stacks were thrown open to the public in the new building. Mrs. Hughes supported her position by reporting that open shelves were in general use throughout the East. Even so, there were dire predictions of great loss to the collection. One negative result of this step forward concerned a young minister who became a frequent borrower. After his assignment took him to a small town outside Terre Haute, he continued to visit the library. Finally, the staff detected a shortage of books in the religion section and eventually determined that the minister must be taking the books without checking them out. The librarian reported her suspicions to the police, and the chief visited the minister in the rented room where he sometimes stayed when business kept him in Terre Haute for several days. Ten library books were found in the man's valise; and though he declared that was all he had, the police visited his home, since all the missing volumes had not been recovered. Mrs. Hughes was asked to accompany the chief of police. A total of 100 books on religion—all the property of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library—were found in the minister's home; he was derobed and asked to leave Indiana by his church. The shelves at Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library nevertheless remained open and have continued so through the years.

Keeping current fiction available was as difficult as it is today. The early library used two methods by which it attempted to supply the demand: a reserve list and a rental collection. The reserve list was the idea of Mrs. Hughes, who instituted it during the first year in the new building. Apparently the list applied at first only to fiction; a note from several years later mentioned putting non-fiction on the reserve list. As suggested by citizens and librarians who knew Mrs. Hughes, she was fair to the extreme and unyielding once she set her course. This characterized her management of the reserve list; all patrons had to take their turn, and staff members were placed at the bottom of the list. There were some disgruntled citizens who wanted special treatment, but they did not get it. Thus firmly established, reserve lists have continued to this day. The rental collection also was instituted during the first year in the new building. It is

well described by Mrs. Hughes in the *Rules and Regulations* printed in 1922:

> In the case of popular fiction the librarian has found it impossible to buy enough copies to supply the temporary demand. It has been found practical and popular to buy, besides the copies the Library can afford, other copies which rent for two cents per day. Many people are perfectly willing to pay for clean new books rather than wait for the seven day copies.

Often, the rental fees amounted to more than enough to purchase the copy for the regular collection as well as the rental copy or copies. Amounts collected from rentals, as recorded in the annual reports, ranged from $200 up per year. In 1920–21 the sum collected was $647.14. Judging by news articles, there was some opposition to the idea of paying for anything in a "free" public library; however, the rental collection was continued until the 1950s.

The success of the story hours for children has been related above. One of Mrs. Hughes' dreams which came true was a service to children in their out-of-school hours, recreational in nature; it has endured in the public library program even after schools have established their own curriculum-oriented libraries.

The fourth dream of Mrs. Hughes, the establishment of branches, was to all appearances abundantly realized, with the existence of twenty-nine agencies in addition to the main library, in 1924. But the reality was different from the dream. Mrs. Hughes' first concept of a branch was a completely separate unit not associated with the schools; in her annual report for 1909–10 (just three years after the new building was opened), the Librarian urged service in the northeast section of the city by means of a branch in rented rooms or in a Carnegie building. Also in her recommendation of a branch at Greenwood School in the same report, she included the phrase "until a permanent building can be opened." This idea expanded into a series of communications with the Carnegie Corporation, represented by Secretary J. A. Bertram, and the Indiana Public Library Commission. On April 19, 1910, Arthur S. Hathaway, a member of the Terre Haute Board of School Trustees, received a letter from the secretary of the Public Library Commission urging the establishment of a branch in North Terre Haute and the increasing of

the Terre Haute tax levy from $0.02 to $0.048, at least. In 1912, the secretary of the commission urged Mrs. Hughes to establish a branch with an assembly room in West Terre Haute. This was a period in which the Indiana Public Library Commission was expansion-minded . . . helping and exerting influence. Records are incomplete, but files of letters in VCPL and the Indiana State Library dealing with the subject of branches show that Mrs. Hughes spent much time trying to work out the financing of an ideal situation while at the same time developing school stations and planning for community service from those stations. In the matter of township and/or county taxes, petitions by citizens were sufficient for levying a tax within a rural area but not within an incorporated town or city. There was also the problem of persuading the Township Advisory Board to levy the tax once the petition was submitted. To help with financing buildings, Mrs. Hughes hoped to get a Carnegie gift for four buildings, one in each corner of the city. Her first hurdle was to convince Secretary J. A. Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation that Terre Haute needed them. She never did succeed in convincing him despite desperate appeals such as the following:

> If you will not give us branch buildings, we will open four branches in the corridors of the four schools farthest out, using them after school from 4 to 9.[4]

In all of her letters to the Carnegie Corporation during 1912–15, Mrs. Hughes displayed strong, aggressive purpose and countered each objection. Finally, she told Mr. Bertram she would accept one branch. There was the question of land on which to build it and a tax levy to pay for the maintenance of the building; the assurance of an annual amount equal to ten percent of the cost of the building was a requirement of the Corporation. In a letter dated November 9, 1915, Mrs. Hughes said that Walter Philips had donated two lots, amounting to eighty feet, for a building in North Terre Haute and that the trustees had met all other requirements. On November 26, 1915, she wrote the secretary of the Public Library Commission that formal application for the building had been made to the Carnegie Corporation. No further records are available, and no building was ever erected.

The April 3, 1914, minutes of the Board of School Trustees contains the following note:

> A committee from the Central Labor Union appeared before the Board to ask that no effort be made to have Andrew Carnegie donate money for sub-libraries.

An Indianapolis newspaper summed up the attitude of labor toward Carnegie buildings when it "condemned acceptance of this 'tainted money,' since it had been wrung from the brows of labor's servitude in the Carnegie Steel Company."[5] On May 15, 1914, the Board voted to install an experimental branch at Montrose School. Despite these steps taken in 1914, Mrs. Hughes persistently continued her negotiations for a Carnegie building until at least November 26, 1915, but apparently finally gave up.

Though correspondence regarding a Carnegie building was dropped after November 26, 1911, attempts to find a way to expand to a township or county library were continued until 1917. There were numerous petitions, but no way to levy an equal tax could be found unless all sections of the county petitioned for library service. Private citizens expressed interest in a statewide rural extension of library work. The secretary of the Public Library Commission scheduled meetings on the movement through the state, which was divided into Districts. Mrs. Hughes received an invitation to a meeting of District G (the area surrounding Terre Haute). In spite of all efforts, Mrs. Hughes wrote a letter on July 26, 1917, to Secretary Sanborn of the Commission saying that county extension in Vigo County was "called off."

Again on April 10, 1919, Mrs. Hughes wrote William J. Hamilton, secretary of the Commission at that time, suggesting that county extension be revived. Once more efforts were expended to secure interest and get petitions signed, but finally, in 1922, the farmers decided not to petition for library service "with taxes so high."

So the years from 1910 to 1922 were turbulent and probably disappointing ones for Mrs. Hughes, despite obvious successes. A letter from Henry Montagnier in Washington, D.C., on June 19, 1913, offered understanding and promised help when he returned to Terre Haute. He felt the library deserved a higher tax rate, suggested an appointed, non-partisan board, and offered to persuade the *Terre Haute Tribune* to start a campaign for more funds.

Added to the disappointment of being unable to start separate branches in their own buildings, Mrs. Hughes was faced, about 1919, with the effort of Trustee O'Mara to close the branch libraries in the schools. A news article on the subject carried the headline, "Keep the Books Circulating." The article closed with the observation that it was not the time for retrenchment. O'Mara's effort failed. Without a doubt, the goals toward which the administrator of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library was working were far more ambitious than achievements, but they laid the base for plans for the development of the institution—many of which would be realized in the future.

Selection was another area in which decisions had to be made. The aim of the very early library collections was "up-lifting" and educating the public. This changed as libraries sought more and more to serve the needs and desires of a broader reading public. Nevertheless, many citizens looked upon popular fiction as trash and objected to the library funds being used for it. Mrs. Hughes answered some of the objections through a news article, written for the December 11, 1923, *Terre Haute Tribune* by Anna Bowles Wiley. Following are excerpts from that article:

> Mrs. Hughes replied that in no way does a librarian act as censor of the adult reader. "However, we do censor pretty carefully books for the uninformed youth and in so far as possible we exclude any books of a questionable nature and authorship."
>
> "In the case of novels written by reputable authors, published by respectable publishers and often printed in high class magazines, and sold by established dealers, it is both futile and unwarranted for a public library to undertake an ex-post facto censorship to the extent of refusing to provide them for the use of [persons of] maturity and discretion, and the theory advanced that a librarian should act as a censor implies that there are certain fixed standards by which the morality or immorality of a book can be determined."
>
> "It would be impossible to judge accurately all books which come into the library and even if it were possible for the librarian, staff, a book committee or paid expert to exercise the function of a censorship effectively and consistently, it would be contrary to the principles of a democratic community. It would involve a certain form of library dictator-

> ship over what we boast is the most democratic institution of American life."

Mrs. Hughes most certainly would have subscribed to the current "Right to Read" code.

In addition to the morality question, there were other pressures to consider in the selection of materials. There was then a closer relationship between the school curriculum and the selections made than there is now. Art books were emphasized, but may of them were gifts. The "Miss Plummer" column in one of the local newspapers advocated the classification of all materials relating to the local community; thus the Community Affairs file of the 1970s had its beginning in the early 1900s. Regardless of expressed opinions, actual decisions on materials were made by the Board; the Head Librarian's opportunity lay in compiling the original list. Mrs. Hughes successfully used as her guideline her belief in "bringing to the library every bit of information that it is possible to obtain for the reading and studying public."[6]

The question of the binding and repair of books arose during the first years. Much of the collection was old, but the librarians attributed the need for rebinding largely to the "poor binding used on most books sent out by publishers."[7] The problem was increased by the public library's attempt to repair all the old library books owned by the schools. The library experimented with finding the best solution. Commercial binding, the staff and Board thought, was too expensive; according to the 1910–11 annual report, Mrs. Elizabeth Purtill was employed for a period of three weeks that year to teach binding techniques to three local staff members. That was followed with a period of home binding; then on February 3, 1912, the Board decided to again investigate commercial binders, since the home bindings were not wearing well. The result was a switch back to commercial binding. Several years later, about 1923, the employment of Mrs. Cora Glover to mend books and do page work at a clerical salary initiated the practice of hiring clerical workers to carry out routine and technical tasks.

Development in the field of progressive library practices was not the only way in which the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library became part of the library world. Attendance at and participation in the Indiana Library Association meetings was an accepted practice. In a taped interview, Miss Ethel Hughes said

that her mother attended all the meetings she could. The annual Indiana Library Association meeting was held in Terre Haute in November 1912. The Board redecorated the interior of the building for that meeting. In April 1921, an Indiana Library Association district meeting was held at Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library; lunch was served at the Hotel Fuller. The highlight of all the state meetings was the Indiana Library Association–Indiana Library Trustee Association annual meeting held at West Baden, October 10-12, 1923. Mrs. Sallie Hughes was president of the association and presided at the meeting. Librarians (now retired) who attended and Miss Ethel Hughes speak of the meeting in glowing terms, as did the newspapers. It was a library highlight, socially and professionally. Many had specially selected dresses for the banquet; Mrs. Hughes' dress was an especially lovely grey and orchid creation, according to her daughter. The entire meeting was a triumph for the Terre Haute librarians. The library was closed, and one trustee and most of the staff attended. The year before, when Mrs. Hughes was elected president of the association, the staff was so proud that they put a bouquet of pink, white, and yellow chrysanthemums on her desk the morning she returned from the meeting; that feeling apparently lasted throughout the year. An unusual point of business accomplished was the endorsement of an amendment providing the classification "Library Materials" for use in mailing. After the 1923 meeting, Mrs. Hughes presented the association with a gavel to be used in future meetings.

Attendance at the national American Library Association meetings began for Mrs. Hughes in 1906, and her attendance at some subsequent meetings was noted. The correspondence files at the State Library, however, contain a letter written by the secretary of the Indiana Public Library Commission in 1910 urging Terre Haute to join the national organization and send representatives. So the year 1910–11, in which home book binding was undertaken, seems to have also been lean in professional library participation.

As a knowledgeable librarian, Mrs. Hughes was known throughout the country, her daughter emphasizes. Bookmen from the entire country stopped in Terre Haute to talk with the Librarian even though they could not be certain of getting orders. They called her "Mother Hughes." The C. A. Nichols Publishing Company asked her for a letter of endorsement of *The New Larned,* an historical reference work. In March 1921, Mrs. Hughes served on a panel at a district meeting held in Craw-

fordsville, and she received an invitation to attend a district meeting at Danville, Illinois, on March 12, 1926. Her daughter states that Mrs. Hughes helped establish the library at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College. There is a letter in the office file at VCPL dated 1911, in which Henry Montagnier asked Mrs. Hughes for sample cards and a description of her charging system. She had instituted some new procedures at the time of moving into the new building, and Montagnier wanted to suggest the new system to a library in Geneva, Switzerland.

Connections with the library world were expanded by the issuing of a beautifully printed annual report in August 1907. It was known as the first annual report, for it covered the first year in the new building and was the first report on record for the Terre Haute Library. The publisher used unusual artistry in printing the booklet, which contained pictures of the new building, a brief history of the library, the year's accomplishments, and statistical tables. It had a heavy buff cover with old English lettering. Copies were sent to surrounding libraries, the State Library Commission, and many out-of-state libraries whose directors had heard of Terre Haute's annual report and requested a copy. There is a packet of many cards and letters of file at the Vigo County Public Library offering congratulations or requesting a copy. Max Ehrmann offered his praise in a poem and a congratulatory letter. No other publication of the early library equaled this first annual report. The ninth and fifteenth annual reports were printed in similar format, but they were much simpler and less artistic; other annual reports were only typed sheets. Some library publications, such as *The Rules and Regulations Governing the Department of Libraries,* were professionally printed but with less flair.

The story of the first two decades in the Memorial Library would be incomplete without some mention of unusual events. Rena Clark, who had been the assistant to the first Children's Librarian, Miss Minnie Connor, took a leave of absence about 1924. She went to California, where she did research into historical backgrounds at Warner Brothers Studio library. She liked the work so well that she resigned from her Terre Haute position and stayed on. Staff members were very proud to have known her; it was a highlight currently recalled by one of her former co-workers. Miss Clark wrote back to Terre Haute for a book on Mt. Pelee, in Martinique, which she needed in her work, and, of course, the library was delighted to give her interlibrary loan service.

Less happy events were the occurrence of epidemics of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and small pox in 1914–15. These led to the discarding of 718 books which the librarians feared were contaminated. During the flu epidemic of 1918–19, the main library was closed 18½ days, some branches four to six weeks, and other branches even longer.

A note in the September 18, 1914, Board minutes indicates that, at that time, overdue accounts were turned over to the school attorney for collection. Charges of $0.03 per day in fines for overdue books plus the cost of non-returned books were made. An example of one account was that of George T. Odell, a dentist, who refused to return or pay for books in the amount of $2.00. The attorney received the account for collection.

News articles dated December 13, 1924, carry the story of one of the elegant and festive yearly dinners at which the staff entertained the members of the Board of School Trustees. This one was held at the Elks Club, and a retired staff member recalls one held at the Woman's Department Club.

In the community, behind the scenes, through success and disappointments, the first two decades of the development of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library were dominated by the leadership and personality of Sallie Hughes. Her health began to fail during 1925, though she continued on duty until January 1, 1927. Mrs. Hughes had served the public for almost thirty-three years when she celebrated her seventieth birthday on September 23, 1926. In January 1927, she became so ill that she was compelled to remain away from work. She continued to keep in touch by telephone and planned to return as soon as possible. But death intervened on February 13, 1927. The eulogies, tributes, and preparations for the funeral involved the total citizenry—those for whom she had labored all her working years. The main library was closed all day for the funeral on February 15, 1927, and the branches closed at noon. The pall bearers were leading citizens, including the superintendent of schools and some of the Board members. Miss Ethel Hughes, her daughter, received many letters of condolence from librarians and bookmen throughout the country. Many of them came to the funeral. An "In Memoriam" statement adopted by the Board of School Trustees summarized the appreciation of the citizens and marked a fitting close for the period of "Laying Foundations" for the public library in Terre Haute.

PART TWO

A New Direction
1927 - 1953

5

BOOM AND DEPRESSION

In 1927, the city of Terre Haute was a settled center of industry and trade with a population of approximately 63,000.[1] The number of foreign-born inhabitants had been decreasing and was less than 5 percent of the population. Coal mining, though still a major occupation, was gradually giving way to lighter industry. Manufacturing, trade, and land transportation occupied sizeable percentages of the workers. Illiteracy had decreased from 2.4 percent in 1920 to 1.8 percent by the end of the decade. Interest in reading and learning was growing as evidenced by increased home circulation for the public library, from 51,098 in 1906 to 395,433 in 1920–21 and 557,378 in 1926–27.[2] On May 20, 1916, a local newspaper quoted Mrs. Hughes as saying, "Read, Read anything, but Read." Branches and stations had become more numerous in answer to the needs of all sectors of the city; and in return, they had contributed to the growth of circulation. So the 1920s were good years for the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. By the end of the decade, there was the main building and twenty-six additional agencies (listed in Part I, Chapter three). All these were teeming with people wanting reference services and reading materials.

In addition, the public library continued to be the art and cultural center of Terre Haute. Though the Vigo County Historical Society was formed in 1923, the museum was not opened until May 11, 1958. The Swope Art Gallery did not exist until March 21, 1942, and the Genealogical Society was not organized until 1970. So it was an alive, many-faceted library system which Sallie Hughes left at the time of her death on February 13, 1927. Grace Davis' statement was abundantly true:

> The surest test for a library's success is the degree of favor in which it is held by the community which it serves. Mrs. Hughes succeeded in raising the library to a high place in the esteem of the people of Terre Haute . . . . During her incumbency the staff grew from two persons to about 30 members. The circulation from 51,908 in the first year to 564,719 in 1925–26.[3]

Miss Davis went on to say there were twenty-three branches and seven deposit stations. These would be those listed in Part I, Chapter three; the difference in count is accounted for by the tendency to call a one-day school service a deposit station one time and a branch another. Stations varied daily.

Understandably, the selection of Mrs. Hughes' successor was of interest to the entire city. There were two applicants for the position: Miss Florence Crawford and Miss Grace Davis. Each of the applicants had been on the staff for more than twenty years—Miss Davis began full-time work on January 22, 1906, and Miss Crawford, on June 19, 1906. Miss Davis had taken her library training at the library school of Chautauqua, New York, completing the three-summer course. When the new building opened, Miss Davis became first assistant and served in that post for almost twenty-one years.[4] She did most of the cataloging,[5] conducted the training classes at Fairbanks Library,[6] and taught in the school of the Indiana Library Commission at the State Library. Miss Crawford had attended summer sessions at Indiana State Normal School, DePauw University, Winona Library School, Columbia University, and the Indiana Library Commission. She had also made a working tour of European libraries. Miss Crawford taught in the Putnam County schools, then cataloged the Brazil Public Library before coming to Fairbanks Library in 1905. While serving at Fairbanks, she became known for two service projects which she initiated (discussed later in this history).

The decision between the two women was difficult. Speculative articles appeared in the newspapers. Members of the Board of School Trustees were divided: one was quoted as saying the two women were so equal in qualifications that he did not want to vote for one or the other and that certainly their salaries should be almost equal; another member wanted to defer the decision. The Board—composed of Mrs. Virginia Archer, Her-

Fig. 15. Florence P. Crawford, Head Librarian, 1927–51.

bert P. Martin, Herman J. Deming, William F. Mendenhall, and Homer T. Zenor—met in regular session on February 23, 1927, however, and made the decision. Florence Crawford was named Head Librarian by a vote of three affirmatives and two abstentions, and was granted a salary of $2,400 per year. Miss Grace Davis was reappointed as first assistant and received a $400 increase, making her salary $2,200 per year. (It is to be noted that at the regular Board meeting at which staff were to be appointed, in July 1927, Superintendent Carroll's recommendation of an increase of $100 for Miss Crawford but none for Miss Davis was accepted.) News articles reported that February 23 was Miss Crawford's birthday, and she regarded the appointment as the best birthday present ever. On the following Thursday morning she was greeted by a congratulatory basket of flowers placed on her desk by staff members.

Florence Crawford, the daughter of Leonard Franklin Craw-

ford, was the great granddaughter of Caleb Crawford, making her a third cousin of Crawford Fairbanks, the donor of the library building. (Crawford Fairbank's mother, Emeline, was a daughter of Caleb Crawford.) Grace Davis also belonged to an historic Indiana family. The Sydney Davis family had lived in Waveland, Indiana, but moved to Terre Haute before Grace Emma was born. Sydney Davis wrote the biographical sketch of John Given Davis, which was included in the *Parke County Centennial Memorial—1816–1916,* published by the Chautauqua Association. John G. Davis, a great uncle to Sydney, was active in the Civil War period and built a house on the later site of Davis Park School. It was significant that the appointment of the new Head Librarian and her first assistant followed an established pattern for Terre Haute librarians. Many of them were members of leading pioneer families, and many of them, like Miss Davis, had the responsibility of maintaining a home for elderly family members. The entire staff, beginning with Mrs. Lucy Wonner, who was backed by the early committee of women, was characterized by long terms of service, dedication, and loyalty. One retired staff member admitted there was internal dissension, but there was an overriding loyalty to the group and to the institution when faced with difficulties—a true family situation.

Mrs. Lucy Wonner, the first Librarian, served from 1880 until 1895, when she resigned to go to California. Mrs. Wonner was a member of the committee of Terre Haute women who had the zeal and perseverance to establish a library. Her term was relatively short, yet lasted more than a decade. Miss Leatha Paddock, who followed Mrs. Wonner, came from out of town; her term was the shortest of all, 1895 to 1906, but still a year more than a decade. Following her was Mrs. Sallie Hughes, who had been on the staff since 1894; she was to remain until her death in 1927, a term of thirty-three years. Mrs. Hughes lived in one of the homes in the fine residential section north of the new library and became deeply involved in the welfare of Terre Haute and Vigo County from the standpoint of services the public library could render. Amelia Williams, an assistant during Miss Paddock's years, had her career cut short by death on January 30, 1907, after only three years of service. The next assistants employed (January 22, 1906) were Miss Minnie Connor and Miss Grace Davis, who served until 1921 and 1948, respectively.[7] The longevity of terms served by the early staff members is astounding. Though the pros and cons of long

service are well known, for the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library it did mean continuity and in-depth performance. It meant high regard by citizens for their librarians, whom they had long known in their nearby branch or at the main library. This continuity and promise of consistency of operation was preserved by the appointment of Florence Crawford on February 23, 1927.

The development of the Terre Haute public library during the first twenty-one years in the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building, it should be noted, did reflect the personality and interests of its leader; and certainly, changes in that respect might be expected under Miss Crawford, the new leader. Beginning with events before her appointment, Florence Crawford had already distinguished herself by initiating two service projects that were referred to frequently in later years. One project, a volunteer undertaking, resulted from a visit made by Miss Crawford to the State Farm at Putnamville in 1922. Noticing the need for books, Miss Crawford solicited gifts and, with the aid of the Boy Scouts, collected 1,000 volumes. They were cataloged by six volunteers from the public library, and the chaplain at the Farm was trained as a volunteer librarian. This was the beginning of the fine State Farm library now maintained by the state.

The second project resulted from Miss Crawford's short stay in Union Hospital in 1925. During that stay, she enjoyed the books brought her by friends so much that she wanted other patients to have the same opportunity. With the approval of Mrs. Hughes, Miss Crawford began collecting gift books for a patients' library in Union Hospital and was assigned to work in it two half-days a week. The collection continued to be maintained by gifts of books or money. To further supplement the collection, the idea developed about 1930 of a Memory Shelf, on which were placed books given in memory of departed friends and family. One of the first books on the Shelf was *White Shadows of the South Sea* by Frederick O'Brien, purchased by members of the staff in memory of Mrs. Hughes. Book plates identified the donors and the persons in whose memory the books were given. Miss Mildred Valentine succeeded Miss Crawford as hospital librarian when Miss Crawford was named Head Librarian. The hospital station continued to serve for the next quarter of a century, received national attention, and was ranked as one of those movements "for the good of humanity" in which Miss Crawford was the "torch bearer."[8]

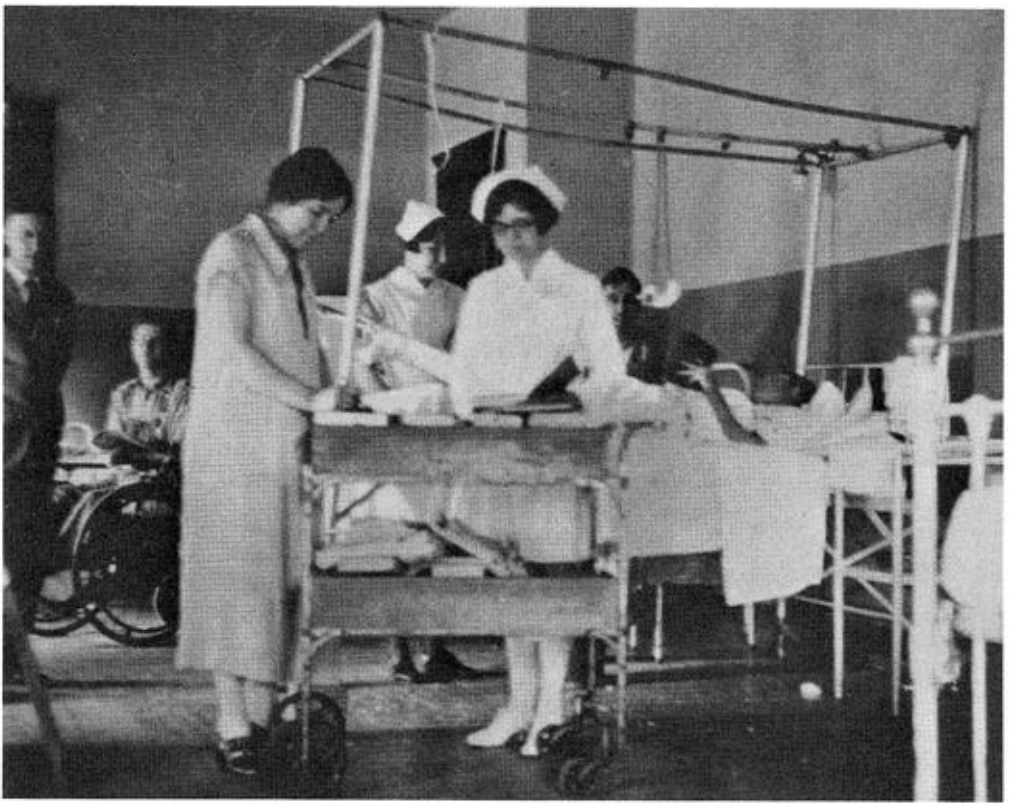


Fig. 16. Library cart in Union Hospital.

Immediately following 1927, continuity was the apparent goal of the new administration. In the *Annual Report, 1928–29* this tone is well summarized:

> There has been no outstanding event during the past year but a steady growth, which is as satisfactory in the library world as in the business world.

As was her practice, Miss Crawford closed the *Annual Report, 1930–31* with a quotation:

> To you from failing hands we throw the torch;
> Be yours to hold it high
> If ye break faith with us who die
> We shall not sleep.[9]

In this way she paid tribute to the donor of the building and "the Librarian, who for twenty years so conscientiously laid the foundation of the work."[10] The system did seem to be functioning well without need for change. The last branch, Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, was opened in the fall of 1927, making twenty-six agencies (branches, sub-branches, and stations) in addition to the main building. Miss Crawford said, "every child in the city [was] within walking distance of a library."[11] In the same year, the staff numbered about thirty. The Great Depression was creeping up on Terre Haute and by 1930 was keenly felt in many sectors; but the library was booming as a result of that depression, and it continued to do so for two more years. In the *Annual Report, 1930–31* Miss Crawford philosophized concerning the increase in library use with the following quote:

> No greater justification for the maintenance of public libraries out of public funds is needed than the fact that the masses are learning how to utilize to the best advantage even their enforced and undesired leisure."

From a high circulation of 557,378 in 1926–27, business continued to increase each year until it reached 799,768 in 1931–32. Reference work was more and more in demand, and a former member of Miss Crawford's staff recalls how insistent she was that every question be carefully researched and answered. Classes in the use of the library were conducted for children in most branches and whenever requested at Main.[12]

Story hours were continued; Miss Hazel Bungard was the "Story Lady" in the late 1920s. At a June 1927 story hour in Collett Park (summer story hours were held in parks), she told the stories "Tired Trolley Car," "Merry Meg," and "Jacko and the Dingo Boy." In 1931, additional story hours were conducted at Rose Park. Travel study clubs for children were an extra feature in the summers of 1929 and 1930; children were able to join the club at any branch or at Main, then travel through chosen countries by reading. The library cooperated with the *Terre Haute Tribune* in its annual birdhouse contest; among other things, Beulah Eaton, Children's Librarian, published lists of helpful books in the "Bird House News" column.

Beginning in the summer of 1930, a special section was set aside for Boy Scout books at Main and some of the branches;

Fig. 17. EFML Staff at the time of the Silver Anniversary, 1931.

Fig. 18. Hazel Bungard, the "Story Lady."

a Merit Badge in reading had been added by the scouts. In December 1930, Main served as a collection point for Christmas gifts which were to be dispensed to needy children by the *Star-Post* Santa Claus fund; gifts were displayed during December on a table centered in front of the "delivery counter." Sandison School Branch, with Miss Ruth Adamson as librarian, was unusually busy with activities for boys and girls; there was a doll party in June 1927, and there were several parades, among them the Bus and Street Car Parade in August 1929. Book title contests were devised and published in the newspapers. Lists of available books were constantly published in the *Terre Haute Tribune* and *Star-Post*; some of the topics were cookbooks, flower growing, gardening, a "Merry-go-round of Children's Books," "Negro Health," "Gladiola Fans," and "Air Bugs." The *Terre Haute Tribune* of September 14, 1930, had a feature article on how the library helped the American Art Wood Products Company stay in business regardless of the Depression; the library did the research necessary for designing a miniature reproduction of a Louis XIV stagecoach, the product that enjoyed heavy sales. Highlights such as the visit of Padraic Colum, the Irish poet, at a story hour were of great interest. Art exhibits continued; many of them came from the Hoosier Salon in Chicago. The Club Room was frequently in use, especially by the Vigo County Historical Society, of which Miss Crawford was a charter member. Contributing to the historic nature of the building, Miss Crawford, in the early 1930s, planted a Golden Rain tree on the north lawn in front of the building. "It came as a seedling from the Golden Rain Trees in front of the historic Fauntleroy Home in New Harmony"[13] and has become a landmark in Terre Haute. The seedling was a gift from Miss Crawford's brother, Fred.

The flow of materials into the library continued but did show some decline in amount. Annual reports show that, for 1927–28, approximately $8,000 was spent for books alone; and for 1930–31, that was decreased to $5,865.91. In 1931–32, only $4,742.18 was spent. Gifts of many kinds were received, but the majority were popular reading and only a few were rare books. The number of magazine subscriptions was fairly constant, showing a change from 282 titles in 1928–29 to 270 titles in 1930–31. No record shows any purchase of stereographs or other audio-visual materials. The picture file, at first so proudly created and expanded, was not mentioned in these years.

Staff training and growth continued during the late 1920s much the same as always. There were staff meetings once a month for ten months each year, with emphasis on literature and science lectures by Indiana State Normal instructors. The program of training apprentices and substitutes was continued. Staff were urged to attend summer library schools, and some did. The entire staff was given the privilege of attending state meetings. Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library hosted the district meeting of the Indiana Library Association in the spring of 1928; and two staff members, Ruth Adamson and Mildred Valentine, were on the program; the luncheon was at the Elk's Club and tea was served at 4:00 p.m. Miss Crawford was vice president of the Indiana Library Association during 1928–29. Social activities were not forgotten: Miss Crawford entertained the staff, superintendent, trustees, and some teachers at a garden party at her brother's home; and there were notices of staff luncheons.

Despite all these continued services and activities, Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library experienced the beginnings of a personality change in the years between 1927 and 1932. Though historic material was always important, its value was further underlined by appeals for gift materials on history and genealogy which Miss Crawford had published in the local papers in March 1927. Many gifts did come in, and the *Annual Report, 1928–29* said the staff was increasing the genealogy department as rapidly as funds would permit. Another phase of the history emphasis was the series of historical articles published weekly by the *Terre Haute Tribune* beginning in September 1930. These articles were researched and written by members of the library staff; they were then clipped and arranged in a scrapbook for reference. In 1927, bound volumes of theater programs of the Terre Haute theaters had been accepted by the library as gifts. The scrapbooks referred to above were only a small part of another project: the collecting and indexing of well over one hundred scrapbooks on historical and genealogical subjects. The index includes references to magazines, newspapers, and pamphlet files, as well as scrapbooks. This collecting of news clippings, unpublished papers, and the like was followed more avidly as the years went by. Mr. A. R. Markle and the Vigo County Historical Society cooperated in the effort.

Some of Florence Crawford's colleagues have spoken of her as shy and retiring; this trait may have been responsible for

noticeable trends in some operational procedures. The first two book lists for Board approval following Miss Crawford's appointment apparently were presented by her; from then on, the lists were presented to the Board by the School Superintendent. In September 1927, George C. Carroll assumed the superintendency, and after that all library reports and recommendations were made by him. Approval of lists of books for purchase seemed to be dropped the next year, and colleagues believe the purchases were left in the hands of the Head Librarian. After the first few meetings, there was no evidence that the new Librarian attended Board meetings.

The Depression brought with it a concern regarding library budgets. Miss Crawford already believed that too much library money was being spent on branches in the schools; she summarized her thinking in a letter to a Mr. W. A. King of the B. F. Day School in Seattle, Washington:

> I know the schools need the libraries and I believe that they will gradually take over more of the expense and the library will eventually be able to build branches as the city grows.[14]

Mr. King must have written Miss Crawford inquiring about how she managed the good relationship with the schools, and Miss Crawford unburdened her budget worries on him. At a later time, this thought was further substantiated by financial studies showing percentages spent on school service only and suggesting that parts of branch costs be paid by the schools. Actually, Miss Crawford wanted branches which were completely separate from the schools. Operating with a large unexpended financial balance at the end of the year also became a usual procedure for Miss Crawford; several staff members have stated that the budget never was completely spent even though materials were needed. In 1933 and 1934, when funds were scarce, the unexpended balance at the end of each year was more than $17,000.

Scholarly comparisons and studies were frequently compiled and included in news articles and reports. The entire theme of the twenty-first and twenty-fifth annual reports was comparison with 1906–07 figures, thus showing the tremendous growth of the institution. Then again, comparisons with established standards showed the staff of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library excelling in the amount of work done. The following table for

1928–29 shows the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library achieving higher circulation than two comparable Indiana libraries.

LIBRARIES	POP.	CIRC.	TOTAL EXPEN.	BK & MAG PURCHASES	SALARIES
South Bend	70,983	587,371	$ 75,457	$19,063	$38,288
Gary	66,518	551,326	127,014	19,193	49,171
Terre Haute	66,083	618,974	83,717	9,310	44,111

Records are not clear as to who actually had the final word on the budget. Apprehension about financial problems implied in the pattern established by Miss Crawford becomes easier to justify in part when the tax levy changes are reviewed. The levy jumped from $0.07 in 1928 to $0.093 in 1929, then dropped during the next five years as shown below:[15]

1930	$0.08	1933	$0.0248
1931	0.08	1934	0.07
1932	0.07		

A decrease in property valuation reduced income even more, so there was reason to worry. In the summer of 1932, a cutback in branch service for fall had been announced; but when the tax cut was decided upon in October, panic struck and immediate action was taken. On November 1, 1932, all branches except those in the three high schools—Wiley, Gerstmeyer, and Garfield—were closed. One half-day each at Union Hospital and the three stations—Rose Home, Fairbanks Home, and Crittenden Home—were retained. Main was open full-time, even Sunday afternoon. The description of the closing given by some of the branch librarians who lived through the period had a great finality and sadness; newspapers were secured over all the shelves of books, the doors were locked, and anyone desiring entrance needed permission from Florence Crawford, the Head Librarian. (That did not quite work out; it was discovered later that some schools did occasionally use the reference books.) Further cutbacks reduced the staff on the payroll from thirty-three to twenty-two. The time and salaries of many of those twenty-two were cut in half, with the result that the payroll amounted to an equivalent of sixteen full-time employees. The

salary allotment was decreased from $43,241.39 to $23,183.25. All librarians of closed branches worked half-time at Main by means of an intricate, chopped-up schedule which seemed to work, once it was implemented.

Still other economies were inaugurated: the expenditures for books were cut from $4,742.18 to $1,406.13, the magazine and newspaper subscriptions were cut from $1,117.23 to $567.70, and binding expenditures were cut in half. Many children no longer had a library "within walking distance."

Thus the library, which had been a vital part of the whole community, retreated into a quickly spun cocoon as a result of the Great Depression. There it must be left until the reader turns the page and moves inside the cocoon to follow the activities there and witness attempts to break forth.

6

RECOVERY

The cocoon analogy of the 1932 retrenchment certainly would be questioned—maybe even resented—by librarians of that period, for the staff saw more activity and hard work than ever before. *The Annual Report, 1932–33* showed a home circulation of 464,868 for the system as compared to 799,768 in 1931–32. But most of that circulation took place at Main—inside the cocoon. Main's circulation actually increased by 85,963 in 1932–33. Reference work, both in person and by telephone, likewise increased. Librarians who lived through the period describe the atmosphere as that of Grand Central Station. They say the place was packed; but they comment that though it was hard work, it was exhilarating. The difficulty of adjusting to a different situation and a complicated schedule must have been taxing for the branch librarians, but there were few complaints. It was true, however, that the sudden withdrawal to the main building as the only agency open to the public created a cocoon-like situation, greatly reducing contacts with the city and making library use impossible for many people, especially children.

A furor of objections was raised. The Montrose Parent–Teacher Association (PTA) wrote a resolution of objection on October 20, 1932. Then on October 13, 1933, the same PTA offered to pay a librarian or to make the library a paying operation, so that children could use the books. The Business and Professional Women's Club wrote a resolution of objection on November 20, 1932. The *Woman's Department Club Bulletin* for October 31, 1932, carried articles on the difficult tasks of library trustees, while lamenting the branch closings. Again on

November 21, 1932, the *Bulletin* reprinted an article from a daily paper regarding Miss Adamson's leaving Sandison:

> The patrons and friends of Sandison school community have come to appreciate the life, character and service of Miss Ruth Adamson. She has sought in every way possible to promote the best interests of our boys and girls by going the second mile to help them in their studies, their social life, and at play. She is so alert, courteous, efficient and capable in her chosen work that the entire community will suffer irreparable loss by her leaving our school library.

Fairbanks PTA offered the service of the PTA members to keep the library open if Main could supply a few extra books. In January 1933, the *Woman's Department Club Bulletin* ran several articles on the value of libraries and reading.

The Board was adamant and did not relent. All branches stayed closed for approximately two years. During that time, the staff concentrated on taking care of the traffic at Main, mending rather than replacing books, and collecting files that cost only in staff time. Some book titles were replaced with better copies from the branches, and sometime during the two years between October 1932, and September 1934, three branches—Crawford, Cruft, and Harrison—were completely dismantled and the materials put in storage, sent to other branches, or used at Main.

By the year 1933–34, two projects that had begun ostensibly to hold interest while the money was scarce were crystallized as the permanent direction of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. This happened despite the fact that the former tax rate of $0.07 was restored in the fall of 1933 to take effect in 1934. One project, the collection and preservation of genealogical material, had been given a start in 1927, and by 1934 had made great strides. The former coat or "cloak" room to the left of the entrance (later used as the circulation office) was fitted up as a genealogy room in 1932–33. The room was supplied with filing cases, two bookcases (one of which was a gift from Mrs. John S. Talbott), and a table and chairs. All genealogy books, magazines, and files were moved into the room, and the collection was thus unified and rendered more useable. Miss Hazel Bungard remembers the Quaker records as among the first purchases for the collection. It was apparent by 1934 that genealogy

was the Head Librarian's special interest. She spent more and more time on it, leaving the daily operation of the institution to the first assistant, Miss Grace Davis. The catalog for the genealogy collection was developed and maintained entirely by Miss Crawford; unfortunately, this led to a disparity of subject headings and form when later attempts were made to interfile it with the main catalog. Extensive indexing of scrapbooks, pamphlet files, and magazines was carried forth by any librarian into whose schedule it might be worked, also by ERA and WPA workers. Materials on genealogy—including family histories, cemetery records, and diaries—became more sought after than the oil paintings or the first editions of fine old books given in the early 1900s. The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) furnished the *Lineage Books,* four different magazines, and workers to clip and mount the genealogy columns of the *Indianapolis Sunday Star, Boston Transcript,* and *Washington Post.*

All of this activity created boundless interest in and respect for local ancestors; with pioneer families in their third and fourth generations, the time was ripe for Terre Haute to start thinking of its past. To many residents, the collection being assembled was priceless; in addition, Terre Haute became known far and wide for its genealogy resources. Visitors came from many states to use the materials, and the guest book in the Local History Room attests to the fact that they continue to do so.

The second project of almost equal emphasis—the collecting of historical materials—was also not in a new area. Crawford Fairbanks had donated a collection of priceless historical material related to the Terre Haute geographical area. Some fine additions were made as time went on. Mrs. Hughes initiated the idea of a Vigo County Historical Society, and Miss Crawford was a charter member. Miss Crawford's interest in historical material was noted in the preceding chapter. The pamphlet and clipping file received greatest emphasis during the Depression years, but gifts of books, especially county histories, were gratefully accepted. ERA and WPA workers were used to copy articles loaned by the Vigo County Historical Society or individuals. The government workers also indexed and cataloged many historical as well as genealogical items. As a portion of the historical project, World War I records were collected; forms or questionnaires were printed and ex-soldiers were asked to fill

them out. The American Legion assisted in distributing the forms or questionnaires and in collecting letters and diaries. In line with this historical emphasis, the library was invited in 1932–33, to become a regional depository for records of the Indiana Records Council, thus helping to preserve early Indiana history. The Librarian served on the Indiana War History Commission in 1934.

Other indications of the historical trend during the Depression years may be found in the special activities at Main. A stamp club was organized in 1932–33 by Earl Prater. Dues were collected and used to buy stamp books, catalogs, and stamp magazines for the library. Membership was open to young and old, and semi-monthly meetings were held in the library. With no new books for Book Week in 1933, an ingenious plan of displaying school books, children's work, and pictures for the years 1876, 1884, 1893, and 1905 was worked out. These display items were loaned by William Wiley, who had preserved them during his superintendency. The project brought many patrons, young and old, to the library over a period of several weeks.

The cutback in the book budget, adopted at the time the branches were closed, was even more severe the next year, droping from $1,406.14 in 1932–33 to $944.87 in 1933–34. Hence, gifts of used books were very welcome. In 1932–33, donations of 834 books were received; these included some valuable art books from Worth Parker and Mrs. John S. Talbott. Entire files of magazines were given for use in filling gaps created when subscriptions were dropped. Since there was a reluctance to discard anything which was useable, duplicate sets of magazines were stored wherever possible and collections of books were tucked away in various places. Lacking funds for new library stacks, the librarians purchased second-hand bookcases of all descriptions and placed them in the open space in the basement to hold some of the duplicate and surplus materials. Yet with all this apparent abundance, new and current materials were not available to meet the demand. Even the binding of magazines and newspapers was discontinued for a few years. Despite these shortages, Main continued to be a very busy place and, for the first time, men rather than women were in the majority as borrowers.

The closing of the branches never was fully accepted by the citizens; the clamor for branch services was almost continuous

from the November 1, 1932, closing until the reopening of some of them in 1934. A mass petition to the Board of School Trustees from Altrusa, the Woman's Department Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Greenwood PTA in May 1934 asked that branches be reopened. Lange School PTA sent a separate petition to the Board, and the need for libraries, both school and public, was generally pointed out. Finally, at the August 30, 1934, Board meeting, Superintendent Carroll recommended that the staff members be rehired and that community and school service be restored at the Deming, Greenwood, Montrose, McLean, Sarah Scott, and Gerstmeyer branches for nine months of the year. Those branches opened September 1, 1934. Greenwood was a two-day branch and Montrose a three-day branch. The others were open for five days a week. All except Gerstmeyer were kept open the full year, not just nine months. At best, only ninety percent of the 1931–32 salaries was restored to the staff, but their cooperation was amazing—those who lived through the period seem not to remember much about the cut in salary and remember only that branches were opened on full schedule. The city was pleased, too, with the restored branches, and the Woman's Department Club sent the Board a note of praise.

The opening of the branches triggered a breaking forth from the cocoon; however, the process was not nearly so rapid as the retreat into it. Home circulation figures increased from 345,849 in 1933–34 to 453,050 in 1934–35. A total of $3,241.22 was spent for books in 1934–35 compared to $944.87 in 1933–34. The picture and newspaper clipping files, started in 1906, were revised and brought up-to-date. Leather-bound books were treated with an oil preparation to preserve the bindings. Professor W.T. Turman of Indiana State Teachers' College undertook the cleaning and retouching of the many art works owned by the library. Professor Turman did much of the work himself and supervised the rest. Superintendent Carroll started a program of rejuvenating the building; the Head Librarian had left all such items to him. In the year 1934–35, the walls were redecorated, the dome and windows repaired and cleaned, new lights installed in the stacks, new shades purchased for the table lights, and new pipes installed in the heating system. In April and May of 1935, a whole section of the front steps had to be replaced. Much later, at the Board meeting of March 23, 1939,

Superintendent Carroll reported that the repointing, repainting, and cleaning of the exterior was completed; WPA help was much used.

A forward-looking movement with regard to staff was made by Mrs. Corabelle Dichey of the American Association of University Women. She wrote to Miss Hazel Warren, Chief of Extension at the State Library, and suggested setting standards for the certification of librarians; but the letter, dated August 26, 1935, was not to bring results in Indiana until the middle of the 1950s. The district meeting of the Indiana Library Association was held at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library in April 1936, with Miss Crawford as chairman. A display of PTA reference material at Main in 1936 won national recognition. Miss Crawford made a public plea to the city in 1936 for a separate historical museum.

Thus the cocoon was gradually breaking. Recovery was indeed gradual; the *Annual Report, 1934–35* carries the following statement: "The budget has not been sufficient to restore the members of the staff to full time work." Expenditures for magazines was another area which did not recover rapidly; as late as 1939, the amount was only $621 compared to $1,260.41 in 1928–29. The magazine budget did not reach former heights until the late 1940s.

The 1940s brought further evidence of a comeback. An extensive National Victory Book Campaign was launched on January 12, 1942, with Main library and the branches serving as collection points; the movement was sponsored nationally by the American Library Association and the USO. The Girl Scouts and townswomen assisted in the collection and shipping of the books. The movement was so well received that a second call for books for the soldiers was made by the library in January 1943. Purchases of new books for the library greatly increased, and Book Week in November 1942 was an important event. A weekly question and answer column ran in the newspaper,[1] beginning June 10, 1945. Other publicity in the newspaper was profuse.

The fortieth anniversary of the new building was coming up in 1946. When questioned about a celebration, Miss Crawford indicated that there would be none, but it was expected that there would be some display made showing the growth in the two-fifths of a century. Instead she was looking forward to the fiftieth celebration. "By that time," she said, "we should have

all modern lighting equipment installed in the building, the walls freshly painted and the dome cleaned. The war years have held us back on many improvements and it is hoped that we can catch up and be ready for the golden jubilee."[2] The compiling of scrapbooks continued, and local women were enlisted to clip papers, especially war records. Miss Crawford assembled a book of photographs of all the school trustees. Three more branches were opened for one day a week: Davis Park (serving the school only), Lange, and Rea.

Despite all these encouraging signs and efforts, home circulation went down; in 1950, it was 267,938 compared to 799,768 in 1931–32. Also, the building came to be regarded as dreary and stuffy, and the collection was more and more inadequate in current materials. The staff situation offers a partial explanation. The Head Librarian, Miss Crawford, was seventy years old in 1944 and deeply immersed in genealogy and the collection of any and all bits of history. The dedication and long service records of the staff has been mentioned in foregoing chapters as a definite advantage. But at this point, the disadvantages of an aging staff and the loss, by death or retirement, of nine members during a period of a few years was keenly felt. Each death or retirement was a traumatic event. Clementine Dorsey's death was greatly mourned by Montrose patrons, for example, and the children planted a tree in her memory. Those who did retire were soon in great decline, and members of the staff came to their aid by taking them meals and tending to their various needs. Since most of those retired staff were not replaced, holes were left in the library operation in addition to the saddening effect of their loss. Most serious of all, Miss Grace Davis, who had been first assistant since 1906, retired on August 1, 1948, and, like so many other staff who left, was not replaced.

Looking at the collection in the twenty-two years from 1928 to 1950, a total of 20,195 volumes were added; in the same length of time, from 1906 to 1928, the number added was 76,176 volumes. The need for more materials became obvious; yet, in spite of this need, throughout the late 1940s the institution operated with an ever increasing unexpended end-of-the-year financial balance. On the plus side, the reputation of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library as a genealogy and local history resource center was firmly established, and gifts in those areas continued to be received. Mrs. George Kean and Warren M. Packer gave genealogy books in 1949, and scrapbooks con-

taining Colonel Thompson and DAR materials also were received. Two large bequests lent even greater importance to this area. Word was received in May 1945 that William Ross Teel had willed his library of historical books and $2,000 to the public library.[3] This was happy news for many of the librarians because, according to Ben Blumberg, a close friend, Mr. Teel "designated the $2,000 as a fund with which to purchase the necessary shelves and bookcases to house this library [the historical books given by Mr. Teel]."[4] There were delays in turning over the bequest, and it was not until after the death of Mrs. Teel that all the books could be taken from the Teel's Indianapolis residence. Indeed, it is not at all certain that the complete collection ever was received by the Fairbanks Library. Although the library had talked of using the $2,000 to develop the "Indiana Room" in the northeast corner of the basement, records show the fund being used to purchase historical books beginning in September 1947.[5] Board minutes in December 1950 carry a note that the Teel Memorial was designated for books on genealogy. Records do not indicate what caused the change in the use of the money, but it meant that the plans for an Indiana Room were temporarily halted. Another large bequest to the library came in March 1951, when Mrs. Mabel Puffer Martin willed $1,000 for genealogy reference books. These two gifts insured a fund from which to make historical and genealogical purchases for many years, even though there was no adequate place to shelve the collection.

By the late 1940s, the relationship of the Head Librarian and Board of School Trustees was very distant; the Head Librarian never attended the Board meetings and the members of the Board had lost interest in the library. The superintendent made necessary reports and recommendations, mainly employment of staff and placing of magazine bids plus the major concern of keeping the building in repair. A very thorough program of repairing and repainting was carried out in 1949–50. Some old notes indicate that the Head Librarian may have recommended some items of building care through the superintendent. Apparently, she was able to do as she saw fit on book orders and policies.

By 1951, Miss Florence Crawford was in her seventy-sixth year; she requested retirement as of August 1. Her replacement was not named immediately, and Miss Hazel Bungard was ap-

pointed the Acting Head. In recognition of Miss Crawford's long career, October 14, 1952, was designated by the Vigo County Historical Society and celebrated by the city as Florence Crawford Day. The principal event was a dinner in her honor, held in the Crawford Lounge at the YWCA. The Director of the Indiana State Library, Harold F. Brigham, and the Secretary of the State Historical Society, Howard Peckam, were in attendance. Loring Halberstadt, President of the Vigo County Historical Society, sent a congratulatory letter to be read at the dinner. Miss Crawford was cited for "her great interest and continuous devotion to genealogy and the early history of the community and for her part in preserving tangible evidence of the past for edification of future generations."[6] Life membership in the Wabash Valley Stamp Club and the Vigo County Historical Society were tendered the retiree by the respective organizations. Miss Crawford retired to the family home at Greencastle, Indiana.

Thus was concluded another period in the life of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. It had ceased to be the glamorous center of activity for the entire citizenry and had gone in a new direction. The library had become a specialized genealogy and history resource center.

7

INTERIM

The period during which an institution is under the leadership of an acting head is normally a status quo period; and the librarian who served as Acting Head of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library from August 1, 1951, to October 1, 1953, said just that of the years she was in charge. Those two years were not entirely concerned with the status quo, however. There was a resumption of hiring personnel, an expanding of stations, a hard look at the welfare of the staff, a movement for a new board of trustees, the creation of an Indiana Room, and an unsettling report from the State Library.

Immediately following her appointment, staff became a major concern for Miss Bungard. The 1951 staff appointment list showed only four members for Main. When Miss Bungard assumed her duties as leader, she knew something had to be done, especially since three more members were approaching retirement. The practice of failing to replace retirees could not be continued. Hence during the next year, four full-time and three part-time librarians were added. Also, Cora Glover, a long-time processing and mending clerk, had died in 1945 and had not been replaced. Miss Bungard replaced her with another clerical worker, thus continuing the plan of employing clerks for routine tasks, a plan which was to be used to great advantage in the coming years. It is interesting that for the interim, all new employees were considered hourly workers and were paid on a graduated hourly scale depending upon their assignments and qualifications.

Thought was given, even in this short period, to the expansion of services. In 1951, there were only three stations and the

Fig. 19. Hazel E. Bungard, Acting Head Librarian, 1951–53.

Union Hospital service in addition to the school branches. But during the next two years, nine firehouses and the Torner House Girls' Club were added as stations. Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon hours were discontinued.

It was in this interim period, too, that staff welfare was given consideration. Throughout the years, the School Trustees had appointed a teaching staff and a non-teaching staff. At first, the librarians were in a completely separate category, but gradually in the 1940s they came to be listed with the non-teaching personnel. This meant that the library staff, both professional and clerical, worked on the same vacation schedules and received the same benefits as school maintenance and clerical staff. In the foundation years, this was not true because the staff negotiated its own terms, instead of leaving it to the School Superintendent. For example, in 1953, teaching personnel were given a $150-per-year raise, but the library staff, as non-teaching personnel, were to receive only $120. Theoretically, training was different for the two groups. It is true that the Certification

Board for librarians was not created until 1941, and that even in 1952 not all the Terre Haute librarians had qualified. Beginning in 1906, however, librarians in Terre Haute had worked at acquiring college or library science training or both. Hence, according to some of the staff members who initiated a movement for change they were entitled to more benefits. Refused membership in a professional union, they turned to the non-professional Building Service Employees Union for help in the improvement of librarians' salaries, working conditions, vacations, and leaves. At the June 1953 meeting of the Board of School Trustees, Lloyd Pounds, representing Local Union 186, appealed for higher wages, more vacation, and shorter hours for librarians and maintenance personnel. Librarians had not been recognized yet as members of that union by the Board; therefore negotiations concerning librarians were deferred with the promise of action after a Head Librarian was employed, and compromises were reached with regard to maintenance personnel.

The School Board had yet another question to resolve before hiring a Head Librarian. At the June 13, 1953, Board meeting, one of the members proposed that the School Board turn responsibility for the library over to a separate library board as provided in the Library Law of 1947. The proposed appointive board would be a separate taxing unit, owning property and completely in control of public library service. The Board decided to table the motion while it looked into past history, especially the provisions of the gift of the building. The *Saturday Spectator* of July 11, 1953, reported in detail the finding and the Board action. The following quotes from the publication summarize both:

> The possession and custody of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library came under the board of school trustees by special ordinance . . . . the school city had asked to take over control of the library and offered to maintain it as long as the building stood . . . .
>
> At a recent meeting the board voted three to two to retain its control of the library, with the understanding a head librarian would be obtained as soon as possible.

The meeting, held on July 4, 1953, reflected a feeling of responsibility for the library which would not be shed easily,

and efforts to locate a Head Librarian was redoubled. In the past, available community members had been chosen as Head Librarians depending on the Board's approval of their qualifications for the task. Mrs. Hughes reported "private instruction" as her training. By 1953, the State Certification Board required specific formal training, and there was no community member available who met the standards of the Certification Board. Greater efforts were made to find a qualified person outside the community, and Stillman K. Taylor, Assistant Librarian at Gary, Indiana, was unanimously approved on August 27, 1953. Two hurdles had been passed: the Board of School Trustees had voted to retain control and a Head Librarian had been hired. The union leader, Lloyd Pounds, had attended the August 27 meeting with his request, and the Board promised a meeting with the Head Librarian and staff when Mr. Taylor arrived to assume his duties on October 1, 1953.

The foregoing major problems faced by the Board may seem removed from the operation of the library by Hazel Bungard and staff, but there had been the persistent question of how long it would be until a Head Librarian came. More than that, some staff members were under pressures which caused the Board to take definite actions and were involved in enlisting the union which made requests on behalf of the staff. The unrest created an extremely difficult situation during the interim operation, but the fine building stood firm as did the surviving staff members —solid foundations had been laid in the early 1900s.

A knotty problem inherited by Miss Bungard was the establishment of an "Indiana Room." As related in the preceding chapter, the Teel money, designated for the room, was being used to purchase materials; hence, there was still a need for a room to house the expanding historical and genealogical collections. In a letter to the Board of School Trustees from John Biel, Attorney, on June 23, 1952, an appeal was made for appropriation of funds to carry out plans developed by Loring Halberstadt and Miss Bungard for the development of an Indiana Room. The Board approved the plans on June 1, 1953, and the work of remodeling proceeded. The project was not completed, however, until after the arrival of the new Head Librarian.

As an efficiency measure, the use of Library of Congress catalog cards was begun in this period; heretofore they had been handwritten or typed.

In addition to the specific areas noted, Miss Bungard showed an interest in the total rating of Terre Haute's library. She requested a report from Miss Harriet Carter, Head of Extension Division of the State Library, after Miss Carter had visited the Fairbanks Library. It is not certain who initiated the visit, but Miss Bungard did ask for a report on it. Miss Carter complied with the request in a letter[1] dated July 14, 1953; she summarized her comments as follows:

> The problem in Terre Haute essentially is to transform the library from what it has become—a rare book, genealogical and school library, of interest and use by special groups and limited numbers, into a fine, public library with an expanded and expanding viewpoint, with broad objectives of information, recreation, education, research and esthetics now but partially fulfilled.

According to standards used by the State Library, Terre Haute's public library had gone much too far in one direction. Despite some valiant efforts in the preceding two years, many problems and much work faced the new Librarian and the largely new staff he would recruit and organize. A new era, an attempt to regain the esteem of and usefulness to the total citizenry which characterized the early years, was signaled to begin on October 1, 1953.

PART THREE

A New Era
1953 - 1975

8

CHANGE — PHYSICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL

It was as if the strong winds blew and the doors were flung wide when Stillman K. Taylor arrived at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library on October 1, 1953. In previous years, the transition from one administration to another had been gradual. But in 1953, the new administrator of the Terre Haute public library was, for the first time, a newcomer to the city; and for the first time that person was a man. The traditional library quiet was broken by the laugh of a male voice, and change invaded every area. Many phases were tackled almost simultaneously, but most obvious were the physical changes.

The project of remodeling the northeast room of the basement, the Juvenile Room in the 1970s, for an Indiana Room had been started in June 1953, but was not completed until the latter part of October of the same year. Some of the shelving and a few of the essentials arrived in time to move the genealogy collection into the new room during December 1953. That collection had been located in the small room to the south of the entrance for twenty years. By 1953, the room was crowded with a variety of secondhand bookcases used for shelving, and the collection was overflowing. Moving it made possible the discarding of the old cases. The old room was then equipped as a staff office.

The new Indiana Room was planned to accommodate the local history and Americana collections, as well as the genealogy collection. The 1953 budget, however, had not allowed for the

purchase of sufficient shelving. Board minutes record an inspection tour of the building in early 1954 and a decision on March 8 to withhold further purchases for the Indiana Room (the Historical Society formally approved this name on February 22, 1954) pending a study of total library needs. The Board did manage to complete the shelving by May 24, 1954, and the Americana collection was moved in June. This helped to clear the lobby area since all special collections had been shelved in odd cases placed in corners and on wall space near or in the lobby. The Indiana Room was fully completed when the furniture for it arrived in 1955. The room was officially opened during Book Week of that year.

Completing a project already started was a mere beginning for the new Head Librarian. He had formulated extensive plans of his own for improving Terre Haute's public library. One of his first goals was to bring brightness and light into what had become a drab building; his program included clearing the corners, putting in brighter lights, repainting in gay colors, and replacing old, dark furnishings. By February 22, 1954, the ceiling lights in the reference room had been lowered and the old-fashioned table lights removed. This was the beginning of a continuous plan for replacing a given number of lights each year. A similar program of repainting was worked out. The exterior was scheduled for 1954, and the interior was begun in 1955. A variety of colors was used; a plum color was chosen to match a color in the stained glass windows in the reference room. By 1962, a four-year rotation plan for repainting was established. Another facet of the campaign was the selection of blond wood shelving and furniture of simple lines for the Indiana Room. Beginning in 1955, shelving to match that replaced the mahogany shelves in the Reading Room. A program of yearly purchases resulted in the complete replacement, by 1963, of all mahogany furnishings, including shelving, tables, chairs, card catalog cabinets, book trucks, and other equipment. The wood work was the only mahogany retained.

The absence of a staff room in the new EFML building, noted in *Public Libraries* in 1906, was corrected during the 1950s. Louise Love Campbell, who joined the staff in 1920, stated that there was no staff room prior to 1953. The workroom (also the catalog room) was used as a lunchroom and there was no such event as a staff coffee break. An attempt to

Fig. 20. Stillman K. Taylor, Head Librarian, 1953–67.

help solve the problem was made in 1909–10 by Mrs. Octavia Eichelberger, a staff member, when she donated furniture for a staff room. Before a room was set aside for it, however, the Board, according to the minutes of November 1, 1912, gave the Society for the Blind permission to use the furniture for its meetings. So the need still existed when the newly-formed Staff Association took over in 1954. Space in the large public women's room was cleared (materials had been stacked there), a partition was erected, and the new section was painted. The staff provided curtains and refinished three pieces of donated furniture.

The year of 1955 brought other changes too. Lowered ceilings of acoustical tile were installed in the Reading Room and the Children's Room. A major change at the end of the year was the moving of the circulation desk—formerly the "delivery counter." The great lengths of marble in the long counter were cut to form

an L-shaped desk, placed immediately to the south of the main entrance. The long counter had been across the lobby, facing the entrance. It was reasoned that the new desk gave better control of materials and freed floor space for additional stacks and file cabinets.

Probably the most innovative change of facilities was not the series of renovations in the main building but the purchase, in 1955, of a bookmobile which went into operation on April 18, 1955. This mini-library on wheels was designed to accomplish the "service to all areas" philosophy first pursued in the early years when branches were created in all the city schools. The service that new bookmobile gave is discussed later, but the wonder of its makeup and the expanded visual concept of the public library which it provided, as it moved about, were of great importance to the New Era.

By 1958, plans had been laid and money budgeted to make several more significant physical changes. In June of that year, a complete change of service areas within the main building was effected. The move brought all adult material together on the same floor and gave the children a separate lower-level room.

On July 1, 1958, an added facility, a branch of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, was opened in the Hulman Meadows Shopping Center in the eastern section of Terre Haute. This was Fairbanks Library's first full branch outside a school (except for one unsuccessful try in the 1910s). More than that, it was the first branch library to be located in a shopping center in Indiana. The securing of space in the center and the budgeting for furnishings and materials had begun in 1955–56.

Closely following this major change in facilities, a second bookmobile was put into operation in September 1958. This, as well as other changes, was part of much long-range planning and setting of goals.

The planning and changing continued into 1959. New metal stacks in the basement of the main building eliminated the last of the old, unmatched book cases and made possible continuous shelving of surplus or little-used materials. Then in late 1959 and early 1960, the remodeling of the Fairbanks Library basement created a Technical Services Department in the former men's rest room area, four smaller rest rooms, and an enlarged staff room. The installation of a dumbwaiter satisfied the old desire for an elevator; however, the moving of the Technical Services Department made it impossible to use the original, built-in elevator

Fig. 21. Remodeled lobby.

shaft. The former cataloging room on the first floor was used for much needed office expansion.

A new roof in 1961, in which the skylight over the dome was eliminated, and the glass and aluminum doors added in 1963 completed the major plans for change in the fifty-year-old building. In his 1963 *Annual Report,* Mr. Taylor said the doors gave a "brighter, cleaner look to an old building."

With the exception of the addition of the mezzanine in 1923–24, no change ever was made in the actual floor space of the original building. The building, designed for 30,000 volumes, housed in the 1970s 150,000 volumes, 100,000 back issues of magazines, and films, tapes, and many other items, in addition to serving as the center from which four branches and one mediamobile[1] operated. The program of changes beginning in 1953,

Fig. 22. First Bookmobile with the Library Board and Staff.

creating more efficient use of the space, kept the building operative.

After 1960, efforts in the improvement of physical facilities centered on the establishment of more community branches, further discussed with the expanding services of the growing system.

Physical changes were accompanied, by and sometimes the result of, changes in the organization of staff, services, and procedures. Procedures in the relationships with the Board of School Trustees were noticeably altered. Mr. Taylor, the new Head Librarian, attended every meeting of the Board concerned with the public library. On October 19, 1953, the Board set the second Monday of each month for meeting as a Board of "librarians."[2] That decision marked the end of the former practice of mixing library and school business. At these meetings, the trustees dealt with library business only; and thenceforth were referred to as the Library Board. Mr. Taylor made his own detailed report and recommendations at each meeting. Then at the end of each year, he presented the Board with an annual report which grew more lengthy as the years went by. The three-inch-thick bound volume for 1966 contrasts strikingly with the small, thin pamphlet that was the first annual report in 1906 and received wide acclaim. Annual reports had dwindled to tables of figures in the decade preceding the New Era. Forgotten, too, was the practice of approving each registration and each book purchase by the Board. Those restraints were not revived. The Library Law of 1947 was accepted as the basis for the operation of the Board in 1953. This made possible a $0.20 tax rate; the rate was $0.094 in 1953, but was up to $0.135 by 1959. Under that law, the library was placed in Class II because it was operated by a school board. A board appointed by specified civil authorities, all spelled out in the law, would give the library a Class I rating.[3] Mr. Taylor discussed this with the Board, but they were not ready for action.

Enlarging the staff, organizing them efficiently, and granting them adequate salaries and fringe benefits all vied for Mr. Taylor's attention upon his arrival. It must be remembered that at the same time, he was tackling the physical changes just reviewed. Increasing clerical employees from two to five by the end of 1954 made it possible to operate the circulation desk with all clerical help. Thus the professionals were freed to staff reference and other desk-service points. The children's librarians already were operating from a service point in the Children's Room. The separate service points were located as close to the needed materials

as possible. This specialization of staff led to the creation of departments, a change from the Board's decision in 1907 that all librarians should be trained in all jobs. On July 1, 1955, Miss Martha Reynolds began work as the Head of the Adult Services Department. That department was further specialized or divided into Reference, Circulation, and Reader's Adviser. Acquisitions and cataloging was brought together in 1957 as Technical Services with Mrs. Louise Campbell as Head.

Organizing the work was only one facet of dealing with the staff. As mentioned earlier, some of the librarians had sought the aid of Building Service Employees Union Local 186 in improving salaries and benefits for the staff. The union took an active interest and its representative, Lloyd Pounds, pressed the School Board to add librarians to the list of those for whom the union could bargain. The staff employed during the years 1951–53 had been put on inadequate hourly salaries which carried no promises of vacations, sick leave, and other benefits. This temporary type of employment was meant to allow the new Head Librarian to build his own staff; however, the staff was impatient.

Mr. Taylor immediately concerned himself with salaries, yearly contracts, and fringe benefits. On October 19, 1953, a salary committee was appointed; it was composed of three representative staff members and three Board members, and Miss Hazel Bungard, the former Acting Librarian, chaired the committee. A time study was made, job descriptions were written with necessary training indicated, and a complete salary scale was worked out. The report of the committee was accepted by the staff, then submitted to and accepted by the Board on April 26, 1954. The salary scale was not as high as that enjoyed by teachers; it was not until 1961 that the staff planned to ask for a scale closely related to that of the schools.[4] In November, 1953, the Board minutes record a change from hourly to contract employment for several members of the staff. This action qualified most of the staff for vacations and other benefits. It was not until December 1953 that the Board voted to add "library employee" to their agreement with the Union Local 186. But the union spokesman never found it necessary to intervene on behalf of the librarians. Some of the staff, however, retained membership in the union for twelve or more years.

Mr. Taylor's report to the Library Board on October 19, 1953, indicated that he planned to discuss the organization of a staff association with the staff at the next general meeting. October

24. It took the staff a while to assimilate the idea and to decide that there would be some advantages—they were steeped in the idea of leaving all management to the Head Librarian. Even so, the Staff Association was organized on January 9, 1954; according to the constitution, adopted April 10, 1954, it was to be known as the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Staff Association and to hold nine meetings a year. The purpose was to "represent the staff as a body, both professionally and socially, and to sponsor social events for the members of the staff."

Of immediate concern was a personnel code which would spell out work rules, vacation time, sick leave, and other fringe benefits. A committee of three was appointed at the February meeting. Their work was not quickly accomplished: they sought guidance from the codes of other libraries; they met with the Head Librarian; he, in turn, talked with the Board. Finally, at a special session on January 19, 1955, the Library Board adopted the *Personnel Code,* a detailed description of the rights, privileges, obligations, and responsibilities of library employees. It was reproduced in pamphlet form on the spirit duplicator by and for the use of staff members. The only thing in the past which even slightly resembled it was *Rules and Regulations,* published first in 1906, written by the Head Librarian and professionally printed. That publication included what appeared to be everything concerning the library, for example, hours, fines, staff vacations, care of books. It was distributed to both the public and the staff.

Standing committees of the Staff Association appointed in May 1954 were Social and Program, Welfare, and Salary and Job Analysis. The special committee for the personnel code was already working. The Welfare Committee assumed responsibility for providing morning coffee and developed a plan for taking care of collections for retirement gifts, cards or plants for those who were ill, funeral flowers, and other expressions of thoughtfulness when the staff wished to act as a group. The Social and Program Committee began work with social events—a welcome dinner for Mr. Taylor and his family, a summer picnic, and later a Christmas party. By September 1954 the same committee announced a complete list of nine programs to follow the monthly Staff Association meetings. Then in October, plans for an open house on November 18, during National Book Week, were announced. The committee for all these activities was soon replaced by two committees.

Similar changes have taken place in other areas; procedures, staff room facilities, and activities have become more sophisticated. But the areas of concern have been relatively constant. The Association has served as a vehicle for unified staff action as the personnel changed from a small group, all of whom were women and many of whom shared similar interests, to a larger and more cosmopolitan group.

In December 1953 another avenue for promoting staff communication was introduced by Stillman Taylor in the form of a monthly *Fairbanks Library Bulletin* edited by him and reproduced on the spirit duplicator for members of the staff. The first issue was a single sheet publishing circulation statistics for November 1953, news of a coming holiday party for the staff, the 1954 budget, and the holiday hours. The *Bulletin* has remained an administrative rather than a Staff Association responsibility; however, ample opportunity for staff reporting has been provided. In January 1964 a staff member, Mrs. Frances Boyd, assumed the editorship instead of the Head Librarian. In September 1964 the publication became known as the *Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Staff Bulletin* with a picture of the building (later replaced by the logo) added to the heading. In the early years, the *Bulletin* was used to inform staff of changes in procedures and policy statements from the Head Librarian. It is almost possible to write a procedure manual for the Technical Services Department from the articles in the *Bulletin* written by the Head of Technical Services. When Frances Boyd took over the editorship, a special column, "From Mr. Taylor's Desk," was added. Gradually, the *Bulletin* became more journalistic (Mrs. Boyd's touch) and has added pages, but it has continued as a monthly source of information for staff and, more recently, selected members of the community.

Stillman Taylor's reorganization campaign reached into the most specific details—always with an attempt to create faster service and greater efficiency. The rental collection was immediately discontinued since the proceeds from it had dwindled to approximately $60 per year. The limit on the number of books taken was removed. Charging procedures were under constant scrutiny and change; the Gaylord charging system was implemented in January 1964. The growing use of machines for efficiency was shown in the installation of a coin-operated duplicator in the lobby and the purchase of a spirit duplicator and a

Mimeograph. To aid the public, an "auto page" (curb return box) was installed.

Cataloging was simplified—eliminating analytics, reducing the number of subject headings, and streamlining the form of the catalog card. All efforts of both the Librarian and Technical Services personnel were directed toward making materials readily available. A study of the old American Library Association card catalog filing rules revealed complexities unfamiliar to patrons. Following Mr. Taylor's lead, the Technical Services Department wrote its own basic filing rules, in a simplified form. These rules not only met the needs of patrons but also anticipated many of the changes found in a subsequent edition of the American Library Association rules. The *Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Filing Rules,* compiled by F. Boyd, L. Campbell, and A. Silliman, was printed by the staff in mimeograph format. Word of this unusual break from tradition became known to the library world, and by request many copies were sold throughout the country.

Mention must also be made of the *Policy Notebook*. Probably more accurately a combination of policies and procedures, the book contained numbered policies on everything that was done. It represented a move toward uniformity of procedure and organization throughout the system which was designed to free the librarians for diverse and individual services to patrons. In fact, all the changes—physical and organizational—just discussed were aimed at the one goal, BETTER SERVICE.

9

REDEFINING THE LIBRARY ROLE

> The public library stands at the community crossroads, serving not any single group, but young and old, rich and poor, with the means of occupational growth and the enrichment of personal life in hours of leisure.[1]

Defining the goals of a public library had become an academic as well as a practical concern of the library world by 1953. That was the year in which Miss Hazel Bungard requested an appraisal of the Terre Haute public library after the Head of Extension Division of the Indiana State Library had visited Terre Haute. The detailed reply was not very complimentary,[2] but it was in line with the American Library Association philosophy, expressed in its *Preliminary Statement of Revised Standards for Public Libraries,* published in 1955. It was those American Library Association standards that Stillman Taylor brought with him in 1953. He knew the necessity for the physical and organizational changes recounted in the previous chapter; they were preliminary factors in the goal of providing service to "young and old, rich and poor." In 1955 he surveyed the Terre Haute library situation and made his recommendations. In 1956, he reviewed the activities of his first two years and referred to the State appraisal of 1953 as a basis for those activities, suggesting that the Board had accepted these as policy by endorsing his proposals.[3] Then in January 1958, Mr. Taylor compiled thirty-three points which spelled out in detail the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library policy.[4]

Though free lending service was restricted to the city, free reference and advisory service was given to anyone requesting it. The library accepted seriously its responsibility to initiate and carry on Adult Education activities. Branches were not to be located in schools, and library resources related to the school curriculum were to be the responsibility of the schools. A systematic program of discarding worn and out-of-date volumes was to be carried forward, with the theory that the bulk of public library material was expendable after ten years. So the policy was set for the New Era, and the complete change from the latter part of the former era was obvious. It should be recalled, however, that the establishment of separate, community branches was one of the unrealized goals of both Mrs. Hughes and Miss Crawford.

Characteristically, Mr. Taylor started with the American Library Association philosophy on discarding old volumes and the recommendation of the 1913 State report that special collections be cleared out. The physical changes which created the Indiana Room made it possible to move into that room all the valuable printed material on genealogy, local history, and Americana.

Other materials were closely reviewed in line with state and national recommendations. Many worn volumes were rebound; and with the addition of some new, plastic-jacketed volumes, the inviting appearance of the stack area was noticeable.

Books were not the only materials on which decisions had to be made. Mr. Taylor summarized the situation in a report explaining the 1951 budget:

> Looking back over the library one sees it meeting different needs of the population at different periods. The early history emphasizes the arts and the library was the institution in the community to which statues, works of art—pictures, etc.—were presented. It also became the depository for local and family history. In times such as these with flying saucers, . . . difficult family and world relations, readers are turning more and more to non-fiction to find the answers to their questions.[5]

Briefly, works of art and historical items were no longer of greatest importance in the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. They were taking up room needed for current information. Since the Swope Art Gallery had opened on March 21, 1942, it

was reasonable to think of it as the proper home for sculpture and paintings. In September 1951, twenty-four paintings were given to the gallery on permanent loan with ownership retained by the library. In 1960, the Library Board voted the pictures a permanent gift to Swope. The "Browning Hands" were loaned to the gallery in 1919 but returned to the Woman's Department Club (original owners) in 1961. The wall and floor space thus freed for more pertinent materials was significant.

The nation was moving rapidly into an audiovisual era, but the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library had done nothing in the 1940s and 1950s to pursue the very early start it had made in the 1910s and 1920s with stereoscopes and the Radiopticon. Hence, it was necessary to make a new beginning in that area. The filmstrip and slide collection owned by the Council of Churches was accepted in 1954 as deposit items to be circulated; the collection was expanded by the Council in 1958. Also, the microfilmed files of the *Terre Haute Star* and *Terre Haute Tribune* were started in January 1954, although the library did not own a microfilm reader until July 1956. They did have one on loan from the Historical Society, beginning in February 1955.

The library took an important step when it became a charter member of the Indiana Film Circuit in June 1955. The first packet of 16mm films was received and circulated in September of the same year. A 16mm sound projector was put in the budget for 1956. There were 21 Indiana public libraries in the circuit, and the films were rotated at the first of each month.

Phonograph records were another important form of audiovisual materials; the first collection was on the shelf, ready for circulation, by October 10, 1955. With the exception of the filmstrip collection from the Council of Churches, these audiovisual materials have grown through the years and become an important part of the materials of the library—sources of information for everyone. The Library Board responded to the New Era philosophy by recommending almost yearly increases in the tax rate. In 1953, the rate was $0.094; and by 1960, it was $0.167. These increases covered needs in the materials budget as well as various physical changes and additions.

The rapidity with which the New Era library plunged into revamping its physical and materials resources was more than matched by activity in the field of use and interpretation of the materials. Services offered were many.

Fig. 23. Story hour.

Fig. 24. Story hour.

A preschool story hour was begun on November 5, 1953—one month after the arrival of the new Head Librarian—and, in changing form and locale, this service has been continuous to the present. In December 1953, it was decided to offer preschool story hours in the branches. This recalls the Saturday story hours of the early years in the new Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. In 1953, however, they were designed for preschoolers instead of all children and were held on Wednesdays during the school months.

For the summers in the 1950s elaborate reading games were devised. A huge paper bookworm sprawled the length of several bookshelves; the children had their own "worms" and added sections to them as they read. Final parties in late July or early August, sometimes with winners announced, were gala occasions. The summer reading program has fluctuated more than the winter story hours. Another service for children was the WTHI-TV story hour on Saturday mornings, conducted by the library. These began in 1960 but ran for a relatively short time.

Related to the story hours was a program for the mothers who brought their children. On September 28, 1955, the mothers were invited to the meeting room while the children had their story; the result was a weekly "Mother's Half-Hour" program. Later, it came to be known as "Homemaker's Half-Hour," then "Homemaker's Hour," after the participants requested in January 1956 that the time be lengthened. In later years, the meetings were renamed "Distaff Discussions." This service, initiated by members of the staff to give the mothers something to do while they waited, became a facet of the Adult Education program of the library. Though the staff had not begun the study of Adult Education at the time the "Mother's Half-Hour" was organized, it used many of the Adult Education principles; the participants planned or requested the programs to meet their own needs. Incidentally and surprisingly, their needs covered subjects wholly unrelated to child care. The service was described as unique in the state of Indiana in an article in the *Indianapolis Star Magazine,* on April 9, 1961, and it continued until lack of downtown parking made Main Library story hours impossible.

A young adult section (actually a corner of the main floor stacks) was set up in January 1954. It was planned for ages 15–21, and expanded in 1958 when the Children's Room was

moved to the lower level. It was always a disappointment to the young adult librarians that a private room or alcove was not available for the collection and its potential users. The collection flourished to a degree during the 1960s when such services were popular nationally, but it has dwindled in recent years.

In his report to the Board on March 28, 1955, Mr. Taylor stated that Terre Haute's first bookmobile was to go into service in April. There would be ten stops for adult users, eleven stops at schools, and one at Torner House, an activity club for girls. After the schedule was put into effect, Mr. Taylor reported on April 25, 1955, that branches in Davis Park, Lange, and Rea schools were closed and replaced by bookmobile stops. Greenwood had been closed on March 10, 1955. Finally, McLean and Sarah Scott were the only remaining school branches. The purpose of this bookmobile schedule was two-fold: it gave service to adults in areas where no school branch or deposit collection was available and it assisted schools in making the transition from public library branches to school libraries, committed especially to supplementing the curriculum. The extension division of Indiana State Library, in Indianapolis, assisted in the program by lending 300 books for use on the bookmobile.

At the same time that the bookmobile was getting started, plans for a separate community branch were underway. Board minutes indicate that in April 1955 thought was being given to space in the new Hulman Meadows Shopping Center, in the eastern sector of the city. Assisted by Ray Hahn, a shoe merchant in Meadows Center and a member of the Library Board, Stillman Taylor continued to negotiate for space at a price compatible with the library budget. Negotiations were finally successful, and the opening of a public library branch on the lower level of Meadows Shopping Center was announced for July 1, 1958. It was hailed as Indiana's first shopping center library branch and received wide acclaim.[6] Mrs. Ruth Hunter, a member of the staff, was asked to open the Meadows branch. The hours included four evenings and all day Saturday to a total of forty hours per week, and the collection consisted of 1,493 books —many of them loaned by the State Library—plus several magazine and newspaper subscriptions. The June–July 1958 issue of the *Fairbanks Library Bulletin* reported 250 visitors at the opening and spoke glowingly of the new birch furniture, easy lounge chairs, and round tables. The branch was a success from the beginning, recording a circulation of 4,357 for the first

month (155 more than the combined circulation of the two remaining school branches).

A survey of annual reports, board minutes, and the *Fairbanks Library Bulletin* shows an unprecedented number of other ways in which the staff made contacts with and moved into the community. There were cooperative film showings and radio and television spots. The Head Librarian carried out a program of monthly and later weekly appearances on Mrs. Wanda Campbell's radio program over WBOW in 1954–55; then in 1956, Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Taylor teamed up for a monthly program, "The World of Books," on WTHI-TV. The Head Librarian always was ready to appear with book talks and library information on television panels and interviews, and at meetings of the Parent Teacher Association, clubs, and the like. There were cooperative meetings with school and college librarians. Also, there were reports from staff members at the Board meetings—the first of these was given November 28, 1955, by Mrs. Beulah Poulter on the children's work.

The Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library held a special fiftieth anniversary celebration during the week of August 6, 1956. Engraved invitations were issued to an open house on August 11 at 7:00–9:00 p.m. The Sunday newspaper carried pictures in the magazine section, and a film illustrating the library's resources was shown on WTHI-TV. There were artistic displays in the library and in downtown shop windows. Through special effort, the interior painting was completed for the open house. A brochure outlining current library services was duplicated for distribution. So the elegant building, opened fifty years before, began a New Era of modern service to the citizens of Terre Haute. In 1906, the building housed 20,000 volumes, and the circulation was 51,098 volumes plus mounted pictures and pamphlets; in 1956, there were 110,720 volumes, and the circulation was 261,191 plus phonograph records, 16mm films, and pamphlets.

In carrying out his stated goal of establishing a program of Adult Education, the librarian used as his guide a policy of the Enoch Pratt Free Library:

> Educational service to adults is a primary function, and the Library pursues an active program of stimulation, leadership, and cooperation with other agencies in encouraging the reading of socially significant materials.[7]

Further elaboration of the idea included organization of discussion groups, film forums, and the like, sponsored by the library. Mr. Taylor was already interested in the nationwide movement for Adult Education when he came to Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. According to the Board minutes of August 25, 1955, he had in less than two years formulated a plan for a Library-Community project in which the American Library Association would have named Emeline Fairbanks Memorial as a pilot library in Indiana for the study of the role of a medium-sized library in Adult Education. As it happened, the ALA did not make the grant to the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. In making the announcement to the Board, however, Mr. Taylor promised to form some kind of Adult Education council for Terre Haute.

At the Board meeting of January 16, 1956, the Head Librarian announced that he hoped to start Adult Education training at the February staff meeting. It will be recalled that the Staff Association was by that time holding regular monthly meetings and assisting in planning the staff programs following those meetings. A visit by Dr. Robert Smith of the Bureau of Studies in Adult Education at Indiana University was arranged for the February staff meeting.

The activities and plans for implementing a program of Adult Education were beginning to mesh. The Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library already had been selected by the Bureau of Studies in Adult Education as one of three demonstration libraries. The staff at Fairbanks Library was already organized and so presented a unit with which to work. Hence, it was agreed that Dr. Smith would conduct seven group meetings (training sessions) that would be open to staff, trustees, and other librarians in the area. The staff found the training very helpful, especially in their task of carrying out staff programs. One tangible result of the training was the award of first prize in the Staff Organizations Round Table Awards Contest of 1958–59. That program year, the staff had produced a series on American Library Association standards using Adult Education methods. When the staff organization section of the Association offered a prize of $25.00 for the best "Project Completed," Martha Reynolds, Head of Adult Services, submitted a report on the series of programs and won the prize.

Adult Education methods became standard for planning and conducting all staff programs. Topics concerning various phases of the work and the place of the library in the community were used. In Stillman Taylor's annual report for 1959, he wrote, "Probably the most exciting event of the year, as far as the administration was concerned, was the Library Staff Institute." The staff was divided into two groups and two two-day institutes were held from August 31 to September 3. The aim was to give staff training and experience in Adult Education techniques and methods. It had been more than three years since the first training sessions, and there were new staff members. It was an excellent experience and helped to give confidence to those who thought they were incapable of participating in group discussion. Staff institutes became a yearly experience; the third year, the Library Board approved closing the library for two days in June so the staff could meet as a unit. Experts in various fields were called in as resource people; the topic was the choice of the entire staff, and careful planning adhered to Adult Education methods.

It might appear that the Adult Education program at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library was in-service training only, not the community-oriented service endorsed by libraries throughout the nation. Mr. Taylor's plan did not stop with training the staff. In 1958, an Adult Education Committee (later called Fairbanks Adult Education Committee) was formed with representatives of the Staff Association, the administration, heads of departments, and members-at-large. This group was committed to expanding Adult Education and its methods to the community.[8] Out of that grew community organizations working in the area of methods, such as the Adult Education Association, as well as other concerns. The program continued to spread and came to cover many, many community adult learning activities: aging and aged groups, improvement of reading levels, Chamber of Commerce training program, *Program Resource Handbook* for the use of groups, Great Books discussion groups, Great Decisions study groups, and the like.

The field was challenging enough that a proposal was made asking the State to allot federal funds for a two-year Adult Education project which would provide the salary for a professionally trained leader and materials for expanding work with community groups. The proposal was granted, and in September 1965 the

Fig. 25. Staff Institute, 1967.

Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library began its second Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) project (the first will be discussed in the following chapter). After the first two years, the project was expanded to four years. During the first three of the four years, Jimmy Tinkle, a trained adult educator, headed the Adult Education Department in the library. He was given an office and one or two assistants. Mr. Tinkle, however, worked in the community more than in the library, with assistance to community groups holding high priority. The Adult Education report for July 1968 listed the following as some of the department's activities and accomplishments:

Published:

Program Resource Handbook
Program Planner's Bulletin
Directory of Voluntary Clubs and Organizations in Vigo County

Started:

Adult education program of Vigo County Schools
Cosponsored Family Life Education program—six other organizations involved

Worked with:

YWCA
Optimist Club
American Association of University Women
United Fund
Department of Redevelopment
HELP
Jaycees

Though Adult Education activities and community contacts received much attention from the staff during the late 1950s and most of the 1960s, other facets of their responsibilities were not neglected. The relations with the members of the Library Board were good; one member of the Board, John Bloxsome, even took time to serve as state president of the Indiana Library Trustees Association in 1956–57. Members of the staff attended state and national meetings and held various offices in the organizations. Library publications were many: *Program Resource Handbook, Film Catalog, Personnel Code, Staff Manual, Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Classification and Pay Plan, Fairbanks Library Bulletin, Finding Your Way around the Main Library, Pre-School Story Hour, E. F. M. L. Filing Rules,* and

a wide variety of book lists. Articles were published in professional journals, and staff appeared on programs at neighboring libraries and took part in workshops.

The foregoing activities and services were preliminary to and part of the realization of a larger goal, one which was as old as the state of Indiana: service to the total county—yes, another activity for the staff. The relative importance of this achievement is best indicated by recounting it in a separate chapter. Though the story is not yet completed, Stillman Taylor's philosophy of the role of the modern public library has begun to emerge.

10

COUNTY SERVICE

> Big news of 1960 for the Fairbanks Library was the vote of Vigo County citizens to adopt the recommendations of the Vigo County School Reorganization Committee for a one-county school system. With this change in administration on the Board level came the reorganization of the Fairbanks Library from a city library governed by five trustees to a country library governed by seven trustees.
>
> Service to Vigo County has been a long standing library goal and it has been with a larger service area in mind that many of the changes in the Fairbanks Library have come about; the development of an extension department with bookmobiles and branch services, provision of working areas large enough to absorb a larger ordering and processing program, and the development of library staff to keep constantly in mind the passibility of a larger unit of service. It is with a real feeling of "being ready" that we wind up 1960 and prepare for the changes which will be needed in 1961 and 1962.[1]

The elation with which Mr. Taylor summarized the news that Fairbanks Library would be operating as a county library was felt by many. More than that, if the early pioneers of Vigo County had been on the scene, they would have been equally happy, for the idea of a county system dates back to the state constitution; also the very first library in Terre Haute was a county library. So it was a goal of very "long standing." Evidence that Mr. Taylor fully agreed with the goal is contained in a letter dated 1956 in the Terre Haute Correspondence File of the State Library Extension Division in which he discussed ways and

means of giving county service. In his report to the Board on September 24, 1956, he also discussed Public Law 597 with regard to ways the residents of Vigo County could get library service. According to a survey made in 1955, there were 40,000 people in the county without access to a free public library. But like his predecessors, Mr. Taylor had been unable to work it out. A few steps had been taken: free service was extended to all of Harrison Township when the remaining portion was annexed to the city in 1958; bookmobile service reached to the very edges of Terre Haute; an Extension Department had been created in 1959 with quarters in the old Documents Room; and space had been found for handling additional materials. Hence they were geared to absorb the change.

The first step in the new role as a county library was the extension of free service to all Vigo County residents at any of the service points, as of January 1, 1961. Federal funds were then obtained through the Library Services Act to move immediately toward the establishment of outlying branches; $30,000 was granted for circulating materials for branches, $30,000 for reference collections in the branches, and $4,000 for clerical salaries.

West Terre Haute received first attention. It will be recalled that much activity aimed at establishing branches in both West Terre Haute and North Terre Haute had taken place in the early 1900s. Petitions had been circulated in both areas, land had been given and application made for a Carnegie building in North Terre Haute, and the Head Librarian, Mrs. Hughes, had given much time and thought to the two areas. Later, about 1943, it is recorded in a letter in the Terre Haute Correspondence File at Indiana State Library, West Terre Haute had had a W.P.A. library; but like many other good beginnings, it was not continued. The citizens of the area were ready for another try, so the building at 626 National Avenue, in which a branch would be opened, was leased on March 1, 1961. The activity related to the opening of the branch was reminiscent of the refurbishing of the old YMCA room in 1880, prior to the March 25 opening of the Terre Haute Library Association. In both cases, it was the community and the staff who scrubbed, mended, and rearranged in order to make the old quarters ready for library patrons. In 1880, it was twelve women, many of them teachers, and the future Librarian; in 1961, it was the Sugar

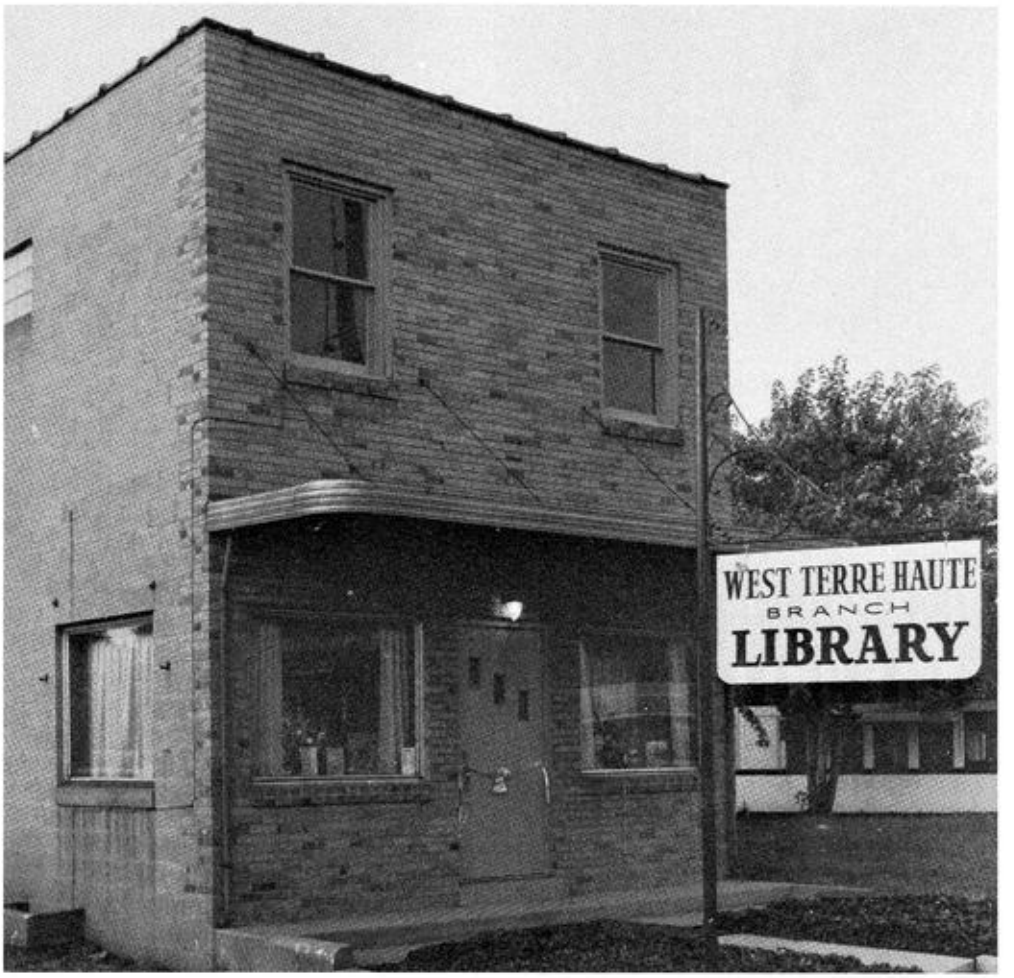


Fig. 26. West Terre Haute Branch.

Creek Improvement Council, especially the president, Mrs. Alice Kieweg, along with the Head Librarian and the Head of Extension who scrubbed the floors. Y teens helped with the upstairs community room. They polished the floor by skating with the polish cloths underfoot. In 1961, federal funds assured the beginning collection, an advantage over the early library. Thus the first county branch, West Terre Haute, was opened on September 6, 1961, with Miss Hilda Bledsoe as Librarian. Miss Bledsoe had been with the library since 1921.

By June 12, 1961, a three-week rotation bookmobile schedule was ready for operation. City stops had been reconsidered; within a three-week span, the two bookmobiles covered the county. Stops were determined largely by requests from residents in the area. Negotiations were also underway for buildings in which to open branches in North Terre Haute and in the southern sector of the city. It was thought that a new building in North Terre Haute might eventually be the answer; however, an old corner building at 3107 Park Avenue was rented. Also, one-half of a store building at 3000 South Seventh Street was rented for the southern branch, and plans to open them early in 1962 progressed. South Branch opened for service on January 2, 1962, and North Branch on February 5, 1962.

In addition to the work of securing and readying the buildings for the branches, work in other areas was increased. Ordering, cataloging, and processing new collections for three branches as well as additional volumes for the two bookmobiles was a great challenge to the Technical Services Department. In a separate account, Mrs. Campbell, Head of Technical Service, told "The Vigo County Story." It was in January 1961 that the more efficient Gaylord Cardmaster was purchased to replace the spirit duplicator in producing catalog cards. Some orders for the West Terre Haute branch were placed as early as February 1961, and large shipments for all three branches from the Library Services Act grant started arriving the last of March. Catalogs and shelf lists for the three branches as well as Main records had to be planned and executed. Fortunately, prior planning had been anticipatory. The department had been moved in late 1959 to larger quarters with a direct access delivery window and dumbwaiter. Also, the work of Technical Services had been carefully spelled out in a department manual completed the same year.

Work loads in other areas increased without appreciable staff

additions: registration in 1960 was 5,943 and in 1961, 12,800; circulation figures showed 16,000 more volumes circulated in 1961 than in 1960. No doubt the sense of triumph helped carry the workers through. Mr. Taylor said in his annual report for that first year of county service, "Fairbanks Library jumped about ten years ahead in one year of county service."

In a separate statement to the Board on February 20, 1961, Mr. Taylor proposed that the two remaining school branches, McLean and Sarah Scott, be closed on June 9, 1961, stating that such action would be in line with years of prior planning. The proposition suggested that books wanted by the schools for a school library would be left and that the public library staff would be happy to assist in making the transition. All other branches had been withdrawn as bookmobile service was established. The proposal was accepted and carried out. Thus it would seem that, at last, in June 1961, the two types of library service would be separate. Defining their respective areas, however, proved to be a continuing problem. There was much dialogue on the topic, and in his annual report for 1961 Mr. Taylor took occasion to make his position clear; he said that the public library should not take responsibility for the supplying of materials needed by the schools for their teaching program. Suffice it to say that the exact dividing line still had not been set by the late 1970s.

The Head Librarian of the new Vigo County public library system was not ready to stop and enjoy the results of the county expansion. In the same 1961 annual report in which he said the library had jumped ahead ten years in one, he also said, "The next big project for the Library should be plans for a new Main Library building in the downtown area close to Seventh and Wabash." He went on to say that a new building should become the concrete objective of the Board, staff, and community. This he said could be accomplished in fifteen years by raising the tax rate to $0.20. However, the rate was set at $0.158 for 1962, and did not reach $0.20 until 1966. Regardless of the tax decisions, Mr. Taylor was so convinced of the need for a new building that it became a refrain in all his future reports and communications. In the annual report for 1962, he said:

> Modern public library service cannot be provided in a building erected before World War I from blueprints based on an early 20th century philosophy of library service.

The topic of the Staff Institute held June 6-7, 1962, was "Planning for a New Library to Meet the Needs for Future Growth of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library." Carl Vitz, architect for the Cincinnati, Ohio, public library, was one of the resource people at the institute. In August of the same year, Mr. Taylor wrote Mayor Tucker urging that the property of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library be transferred from the city to the Library Board so that the way would be clear for changing to a new building. Such suggestions and discussion continued through the years; by October 1965, along with his plea for a new building, Mr. Taylor renewed the idea of a separate library board—considered before but, as always, turned down.

The new county system brought with it other projects; while they cannot be recounted at length, they must be placed in the same span of time. During the first year of county service, the library planned a proposal which would reach beyond the boundaries of Vigo County in the form of a Bookmobile Demonstration and Cooperative Processing project, involving Sullivan, Knox, and Vigo counties. This was signed into effect on February 5, 1962, and was to be supported by Library Services Act funds. The Vigo County library would be the processing center at a charge of $1.00 per volume, and all materials and equipment would become the property of the library for which it was purchased. Thus the Technical Services Department jumped immediately from preparing books for the new branches into ordering, cataloging, and processing for this project. The bookmobile purchased for the project was housed in Knox County and used in Knox and Sullivan counties only. Open-door (reciprocal borrowing and lending) agreements were made among the cooperating libraries of the three counties (Vigo Township in Knox County and Farmersburg in Sullivan County did not go into the project). Thus, residents of the cooperating areas could borrow materials from all the libraries within those areas. Those agreements have continued to the present. The demonstration part of the project ended in late 1964; Sullivan became a county system with a new branch in Shelburn; and Knox with further federal assistance continued county service. The processing of books and phonograph records by the Vigo County library was offered as a direct service to any library in the project that wished it to continue. They were able to phase out the need for assistance, however, by early 1969. The success of the project

led to talk of a regional library. But regions were not at that time in the planning of Indiana's State Department, and the development of the Crawfordsville Processing Center, under the direction of the Crawfordsville public library, provided central processing for small libraries of the area.

Federal funds were, indeed, a great boon to library service in Vigo County. The Sullivan–Knox–Vigo project just described was followed closely by the Adult Education Library Services and Construction Act project of 1965–69, described in the preceding chapter. Then in September 1966, Fairbanks Library submitted a proposal for LSCA funds to provide audiovisual equipment for adult borrowing. The proposal was granted to become effective July 1, 1967, but it actually became operative in 1968 and is discussed later.

Following the expansion of service to the south of Vigo County, open-door agreements were offered to libraries north, east, and west of the county. Clinton accepted the invitation on April 13, 1965; other libraries delayed for a few years, but the groundwork had been laid in those first years of expansion.

Other developments in the new county library system were of varying significance. "Book Talk" spots were recorded each week on WTHI radio beginning in 1961—these continued until February 1972. An interlibrary communications project involving the twenty-five largest libraries in Indiana and giving teletype service for interlibrary loan or direct information among the participants was initiated by the State Library in February 1965, and Fairbanks Library signed the contract to become a member in July 1965. This was expanded in May 1967 to include teletype service to doctors, with requests for information going directly to the Indiana University School of Medicine. Large print books were added to the library's holdings in late 1964. Meadows Branch outgrew its first quarters by 1963 and moved in January 1964 to a larger room in the same shopping center location.

The sixtieth anniversary of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library was celebrated in 1966 along with the sesquicentennial of Terre Haute. One of the significant activities of the event was the production of a booklet surveying the history of Vigo County's public library in an attractive format. This was produced in quantity on the library's own Multilith: Frances Boyd of Technical Services was the author and producer. An anniversary celebration tea was held on April 17, 1966.

Fig. 27. Meadows Branch.

By that time, the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial–Vigo County Library, as the system was then called, seemed certain of its role as a public library. Reports called "The Measuring Stick" had been issued from 1961 to 1966. In these reports, the Vigo County library was measured against standards issued by the American Library Association in 1959. By 1966 the Fairbanks–Vigo County Library met most of the standards. The October 1965 report of the Citizens Committee for Community Improvement showed an understanding of their library system and what the community wanted in the future. Finally, an outline of the building facilities and needs plus a new plan to collect the funds for building was issued by Stillman Taylor in late 1966.

Losses as well as gains were experienced during the 1960s. The last of the dedicated staff members who began their service during the foundation years in the new building retired, after helping develop a county system. Miss Mildred Valentine, who had been the "hospital librarian" from 1927, retired in 1962; the hospital library service—once so important to patients but

dwindling by 1962—was turned over to the Women's Service League. Miss Hazel Bungard retired in 1963, with forty-six years of service including service as Acting Head from August 1951 to October 1953 and as Reader's Adviser during the years 1953–63. Miss Hilda Bledsoe also retired in 1963; she had started as an apprentice in the 1920s, worked through the years, and opened both the West Terre Haute (1961) and North Terre Haute (1962) branches. Two years later, Mrs. Ruth Hunter, who opened the Meadows Branch, also retired. The loss of all this background of experience changed the library image, but started the staff on the task of building a new one.

The four new branches flourished, but there was an evident need by 1964 for expanding or relocating North and South branches; Meadows Branch had been moved to a larger room in the center during 1963. The building of the West Terre Haute Branch had been purchased in 1962, but there was consideration of the addition of a wing there. The most urgent move was that of the North Terre Haute Branch. The building was very old and housed rats as well as the library. Space in the new Plaza North Shopping Center seemed very desirable; and on November 22, 1965, the Library Board approved making an effort to become a tenant in the center. Unexplained opposition came from the authorities in charge of the center, however, and negotiations dragged out. Finally on April 17, 1967, the Board received word that the Plaza North Shopping Center would rent space to the library.

Unfortunately, Head Librarian Stillman Taylor was not to be in Terre Haute for the move of North Branch. He presented his resignation to the Board on April 3, 1967, to become effective on June 9, 1967. He had accepted a position as head of the Great Rivers Regional System in Illinois. Mr. Taylor's interest in regional library systems had long been known, and this was an opportunity he could not refuse. The Board accepted Mr. Taylor's resignation with regret. Sentiments expressed a month earlier, on March 13, 1967, when Housewives Effort for Local Progress (HELP) honored Mr. Taylor with an appreciation award, were typical of the reactions of the community when the news of his leaving became known:

> To the individual whose foresight, standards, and consistent efforts have resulted in significant contributions to local progress and the betterment of our community as a whole.

In accord with their expressed purpose, the Staff Association committees acted for the entire staff, planning both an open house and a dinner in honor of their departing boss and his family. An open house for staff and community was planned for May 24, 1967, at 2:00–5:00 p.m. It was a busy afternoon in the browsing room of the main building. The dinner was a staff function.

The expansion of library services brought about during Stillman Taylor's fourteen years in Terre Haute is obvious in the figures below. Yet they in no way reflect the full measure of services developed or realized during those years.

	1953	1967
Population	64,214	72,500
Materials	121,039	162,521
Registration	9,077	37,982
Circulation	209,936	470,991
Budget	$ 73,417	$426,483

11

KEEPING THINGS MOVING

With only two months in which to fill the vacancy that would exist when Stillman Taylor's resignation became effective, the Library Board had to act quickly. During the same meeting at which Mr. Taylor submitted his resignation, Mrs. Betty Martin was named Acting Head Librarian, effective April 16, 1967. Mrs. Frances Boyd, assistant in Technical Services, was then named to fill the position of Head of Adult Services, which Mrs. Martin would be vacating. Mrs. Martin had joined the staff in June 1958 and had been in the Adult Services position since September 1966. She assumed her new duties in April, allowing only two months in which to become acclimated.

In an interview, Mrs. Martin said her aim was to keep things moving in the direction already set. That direction was a rigorous one: moving a branch library, preparing and presenting the budget for 1968, dealing with personnel, filling staff vacancies as they occurred, overseeing three different LSCA projects in various stages of development, plus many small routine duties. The addition of United Fund and Credit Union deductions to the payroll in September was just one more item calling for attention, yet necessary if past planning were to be carried out.

As previously mentioned, word was received on April 17, 1967, that Plaza North would, at last, accept the North Branch Library as a tenant, but it was August before all negotiations were complete; a two-year lease was signed for the period September 1, 1967, to August 31, 1969. By then, Mr. Taylor had been gone for two months, and Mrs. Martin had to work with the Board on the business transactions and to steer the staff through the problems of getting furniture delivered and placed

Fig. 28. Betty C. Martin, Acting Head Librarian, 1967.

and planning the move from the old building to the shopping center. The move was completed near the end of September, and a grand opening of the new branch was held on September 22, 1967, with Mrs. Elizabeth Damon as Librarian. The official name of the branch was changed to Plaza North Branch Library.

The budget for 1968 was another "new experience" during the summer and early fall. The 1968 tax rate was set at $0.263; it had been $0.227 in 1967.

In the meantime, the task of filling the Head Librarian vacancy was not delayed. At the same meeting at which Mr. Taylor resigned, the Library Board appointed a committee to develop a plan for securing and screening applicants for the position. The committee plan was adopted on April 17, 1967, and the Board resolved to act with dispatch. By the meeting of November 27, Edward N. Howard had been selected. Mr. Howard, a Navy career man, had completed his BA and MA degrees in library science after 1957 and was at the time serving as Assistant Director of the Bureau of Public Discussion at Indiana University. The attorney was instructed to draw up an

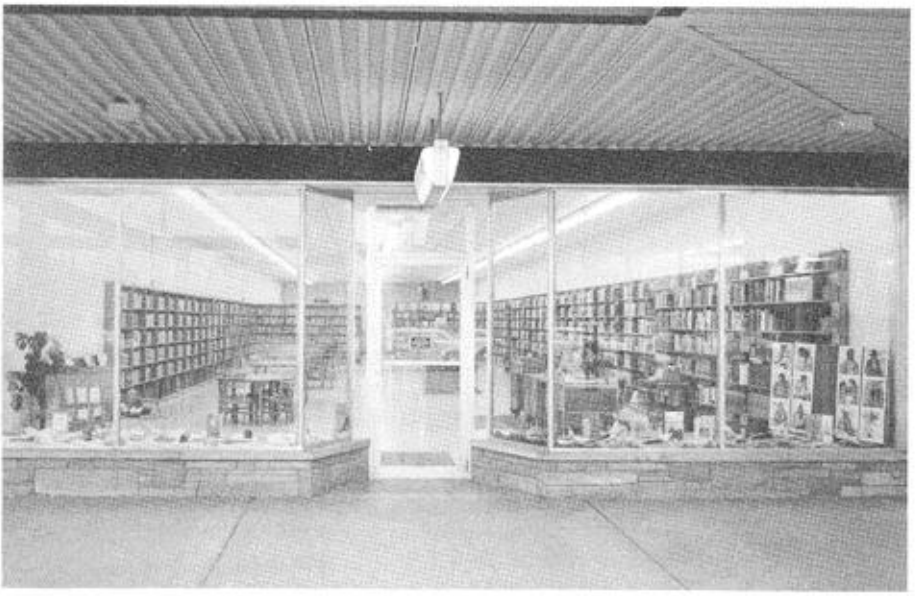


Fig. 29. Plaza North Branch.

employment contract, and Mr. Howard's appointment was announced at a staff coffee in December. Library Board members and news reporters were invited guests. (Coincidentally, as editor of *Focus on Indiana Libraries*, Mr. Howard had devoted the December 1967 issue to Adult Education with several articles by Terre Haute people.)

In October 1967 the invitation issued earlier to engage in an open-door policy with the Vigo County Library was accepted by Paris, Illinois. At the same time, Marshall, Illinois, requested a similar agreement which became effective January 2, 1968. Thus things were moving ahead in line with previous planning.

So it was that, with staff cooperation and a short, well-planned interim, the Emeline Fairbanks–Vigo County Library moved quickly into the next phase of the New Era without serious problems or major incident.

12

THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

When the Emeline Fairbanks–Vigo County Library opened its doors on January 2, 1968, it was under a new Director, who brought with him the philosophies of the New Era in library service—emphasizing the needs of adults in the area of recorded information. The community and library of Vigo County were a fertile field in which to develop these philosophies. In fact, some seeds already had been planted. The community had its own Adult Education Association and was experimenting with Adult Education techniques under the leadership of the trained library staff. The staff had been selected and developed with strict adherence to a previously determined set of standards, and materials had been selected and organized on the basis of currency and accessibility. Hence, Mr. Howard plunged immediately into the task of directing the focus of, and determining the priorities for, his inheritance in the development of community service.

Physical expansion in facilities and geographic areas was almost complete. One change in branch location was effected in October 1968. Earlier in the year, South Branch was offered the opportunity to rent the other half of the building in which it was located. The need for a decision led to an investigation of space in the nearby Southland Shopping Center. The result was a vote by the Board on July 15, 1968, to move the branch to the shopping center. The move was completed by October 1968, and an all-day open house was held on October 4. Mr. Howard seized this opportunity to show the total services of the Vigo County Public Library system—demonstrating the microfilm

Fig. 30. Edward N. Howard, Director, 1968– .

reader from Main, and displaying new and unusual materials.

In October 1968 the public library of Brazil, Indiana, finally accepted a long-standing invitation to join surrounding libraries in the open-door policy; in so doing they extended the geographic area of cooperation, a New Era ideal.

Minor shifts in the use of space at the main building continued to be made throughout subsequent years. Such shifts were made to create additional working space for staff and areas for stacks to accommodate special collections and new types of materials. As a result, reading and study areas for the public were gradu-

Fig. 31. Southland Branch.

ally whittled down. Hence, staff and patrons alike continued to dream and plan for major changes: a new county building and statewide regional organization, featuring cooperation among libraries. But there was much waiting and planning ahead for all concerned.

In the meantime, close monitoring of the pulse of the community made possible the specializing and intensifying of services and programs, which Mr. Howard referred to as an explosion in all directions when he spoke at a HELP luncheon soon after his arrival.[1]

The New Era concept espoused by Ed Howard saw the public library as a separate service entity, not a branch of the county school system. When he accepted the position as head of the library, he urged the members of the county School Board to meet as a Library Board at a different time from that of the School Board meeting. Hence the decision was made by that body on May 29, 1968, to hold separate meetings for library

and for school business. Special dates and meeting places were set up for the Library Board meetings. The first separate meeting, as well as most subsequent ones, was held at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library building. It was agreed that the library personnel would be responsible for keeping the minutes and other records.

The establishment of the new image of the public library as a separate entity was further heightened by attention to names and titles used by the institution. When Mr. Howard was employed, he requested that he be referred to as the "Director of Public Libraries" rather than "Head Librarian"; his wish was granted. Also, the first monthly report of the new Director to the Board was opened with a recommendation that Vigo County Public Library be approved as a succinct, descriptive title which could be used for the entire system, while the main building would continue to be the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. The recommendation was approved, a logogram designed, and new stationery ordered.

In line with his program of responding to the pulse of the community, Mr. Howard took to the February 1968 Board meeting a recommendation which was designed to help patrons who were wrestling with overdue fines. According to the circulation policy, borrowing privileges were denied after an individual's fine accumulated to a certain amount; this policy affected many children as well as adults, with the result that they severed connections with the library. The Director's recommendation proposed that, as an experiment, the West Terre Haute Branch try forgiving all fines and eliminating "date due" with only a reminder notice sent after one month. The Board was reluctant to make a special case of one branch, so the Director brought a counter proposal to the March 25 meeting. He recommended that the current circulation policies be continued, but that the five-cents-a-day overdue fines and the fifty-cent fee for lost cards be dropped throughout the entire system. The plan was to be in operation for nine months and then reconsidered. The recommendation passed with one dissenting vote. Reminiscent of the time that Mrs. Hughes opened all shelves to the public, dire results were predicted; citizens and staff visualized empty shelves because books would not be returned. A survey of borrowers, made in April 1968, resulted in a two-to-one vote in favor of the "no fine" policy.

At the July 20, 1968, Board meeting, the following comparative statistics were reported:

APRIL–JUNE 1967		APRIL–JUNE 1968	
CIRCULATION	BLOCKED CARDS (BOOKS NOT RETURNED)	CIRCULATION	BLOCKED CARDS (BOOKS NOT RETURNED)
111,634	599	127,659	225

At the December 16, 1968, Board meeting it was voted to continue the "no fine" policy indefinitely. A better community relationship was noted in addition to the improved circulation. Even so, many were not convinced and libraries throughout the country thought Terre Haute unrealistic. However, many librarians watched the experiment with interest and corresponded with the Vigo County Library Director regarding the results. An article, "Breaking the Fine Barrier," by Ed Howard appeared in the December 1969 *ALA Bulletin*. By the mid-1970s, many libraries had adopted the "no fine" policy.

In 1967 an application had been made and approved for a Library Services Construction Act project to expand the audiovisual (A-V) program of the Vigo County Public Library. This project became a reality in 1968; it was the fourth federally-funded program administered by the local library. Designated as an A-V, LSCA project for lending motion picture projectors and screens, the program was handled by the library's Department of Adult Education, which also was funded by an LSCA grant. Four 16mm projectors, four 8mm silent projectors, and four screens were purchased and ready for use by June 1, 1968. The Director's report at the July 29, 1968, Board meeting indicated instant success for the program; with equipment available on free loan, the number of films used increased markedly. At the end of two years, financial support of the service was incorporated in the local budget, and the audiovisual area became a separate operation within the Public Services Department. In succeeding years, budget allocations for A-V materials and equipment grew significantly. Terre Haute, once again, was the envy and wonder of the library world. How could they lend equipment without great damage occurring?

In addition to locally owned 16mm films (565 in 1975), the

Vigo County Public Library continued to keep its membership in the Indiana Library Film Circuit. That cooperative effort of Indiana public libraries to serve their patrons was initiated and carried forward by a group of librarians which included Vigo County Public Library staff members. With the aid of federal funds, the service grew; in November 1974, the VCPL *Staff Bulletin* listed 33 libraries as members of the circuit. Packets of 22 films were exchanged each month.

Another major activity aimed at meeting the needs of the community was the railroad car library. It did not meet with the success of the other projects, thus demonstrating the difficulty of the task of feeling the pulse of the community. At the October 1968 Board meeting, Mr. Howard proposed for the Hyte Center area a small, easily-accessible library facility, which would attract young people—at least he hoped it would do that and much more.[2] The facility was to be a discarded railroad car; it and most of the fittings and materials were to be donated. The Director saw the idea as an aid to people in a low-income area, thus meeting individual needs within the larger community. As a link between the Hyte community and the project, Mr. Howard proposed that a Young People's Advisory Committee be formed. The Library Board agreed to the proposal and, with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, work started immediately. A railroad company donated a passenger coach and transported it to Terre Haute. Local companies and labor unions moved it into position on specially laid tracks on April 19, 1969. It was a gala occasion. The donors of services, supplies, and library materials made an impressive list. Some of the donors were Potter Electric, Terre Haute Concrete Supply Corp., Painter's Local No. 197, Smith Alsop Paint Co., Harrah Plumbing and Heating, Vigo County Federation of Teachers, Prentice-Hall, Scholastic Magazines, and Scott Junior High School students. Members of the Library Board commented at the January 27, 1969, meeting that they were glad to see the project move ahead with the interest and support of the local community and without federal funding. The Director's report at the same meeting contained the following appraisal:

> This is certainly one project that is destined for successful completion because of the total commitment and wholehearted support of all its participants.

Fig. 32. Railway car moved into place.

The Toledo Public Library bulletin, *Tee-Pee,* called the car a "first" in library service and expressed envy of Terre Haute's success in getting a railroad car which Toledo had not been able to do. (It was reported in the Board minutes of June 16, 1969, that Carl Elliot had appeared before a Senate subcommittee in Washington and cited Vigo County Public Library as an action library, trying to grow and to serve all areas of the community.) Preparations of the car and materials moved forward, meeting, everyone thought, the wishes of all the people in the Hyte Center area. Two young women were being trained as volunteer library assistants.

Words cannot describe the consternation with which citizens beheld a defaced railway car, instead of a car-library, on the morning of May 10. At the first of several meetings at the Hyte Community Center held in an attempt to save the project, a newly formed group, Young Adults for a Better Black Com-

munity (YABBC), issued a statement that the car was not adequate, that they had not been asked what they wanted, and that Hyte Center really needed a new building.

The Young People's Advisory Committee was dissolved, donated items were returned, and arrangements were begun to scrap the railroad car. At the May 19, 1969, Library Board meeting, Mr. Howard reported that the project was stopped at the request of the residents.

According to an article in the *Terre Haute Star* on May 16, 1969, about $240,000 of local money was needed for the desired new building and the YABBC initiated an effort to raise the needed money. The campaign was a success, and with a $500,000 federal grant a new Hyte Community Center was constructed. The building contained a library room, and Vigo County Public Library provided a deposit collection for it and has continued to service the Center.

Caution in the wake of the "train wreck" characterized subsequent efforts. In the summer of 1971, however, two factors precipitated the initiation of another community service project. The 13-year-old bookmobile was fast getting beyond the useful stage, and the Office of Economic Opportunity outreach workers asked for summer programs which would be a cooperative effort between them and the library staff, using library materials. After several planning sessions with the OEO workers, it was decided to remodel slightly the old bookmobile to transport materials to the OEO centers for use there. The materials were to include 16mm films, audiotapes, magazines, games, paperback books, and related equipment. The outreach workers were trained to use the equipment, and materials were left at the centers to be used until the library's next visit.

At the end of the summer, the programs were pronounced a "smashing success," and the old bookmobile was renamed the mediamobile. Since the continuation of the project seemed desirable, the Vigo County Public Library applied for and received a Library Services and Construction Act grant from the Indiana State Library in January 1972. Among other things the grant provided for the purchase of videotape recording equipment, and the librarians began to use the videotapes to record group activities.

One of the most significant objectives of the Mediamobile Project was:

> To enable the disadvantaged to upgrade themselves through a public library program that provides information resources and assistance in using this information.[3]

In an evaluation of the degree to which the objectives of the project were achieved, a team of political scientists reported:

> Information resources which could assist the disadvantaged in upgrading themselves are being made available to adults; and adults are being exposed to these information resources primarily through the group activities of the agencies involved.[4]

Changes in children were also noted; hence another need of the community was met. As evidence, the library now has a large new Mediamobile, specially designed for the equipment and materials it needs to carry. The unit was financed by the regular budget.

Reference has been made to the Adult Education project started in September 1965 as part of Stillman Taylor's New Era program and funded by an LSCA grant. The project featured a trained adult educator to assist community groups in programming their efforts at informal Adult Education. In late 1967, Helen H. Lyman, consultant and evaluator of the VCPL project, said that the project demonstrated "the effective contribution a public library can make to the education of adults . . . by focusing on adult services and utilizing the skills and knowledge of an adult educator."[5]

The success of the first two years created an obvious need for more; hence the project was renewed for two more years, and the Adult Education Office became the Group Services Department with emphasis on services to groups. Then as of September 1, 1968, one year before the completion of the project, Jimmy Tinkle, the adult educator, resigned. Genevieve Reisner, a librarian who had been serving as assistant to Mr. Tinkle, assumed the work of the department, taking additional training in order to become fully qualified as an adult educator. After the completion of the four-year project in 1969, Group Services became a unit of the Public Services Department.

With the completion of the federally funded project, Dr. Theodore Warren was employed to conduct an evaluation study.

His findings were published in book form in 1969 under the title *Seeds of Change*. The project was listed as a "first of its kind" and pronounced successful.

As the services to the community increased, the size and scope of the Public Services Department increased. Multilith facilities were added, making it possible to produce brochures, lists, surveys, and reports in sufficient quantities to permit wide distribution. The *Staff Bulletin,* originally designed for the information of staff members only, grew into a truly professional publication under the editorship of the Coordinator of the Public Services Department; it is now mailed to a long list of community and library leaders. "New Materials" lists also have been a regular publication of the Public Services Department. The first edition of the *Directory of Volunteer Clubs & Organizations* (in Vigo County) was issued in April 1968; it contained 377 entries, and the second edition, 444. It is updated continuously. The *Program Resource Handbook* was developed in 1966 by Group Services to aid groups in program planning; it is updated every four years. The publication earned a listing in the *American Libraries' Checklist Column.* The *Film Catalog,* compiled by the A-V librarian, is issued annually. A *Directory of Libraries and Specialized Collections,* in Vigo County, compiled by the Director in 1969, was produced in sufficient quantity to supply community needs. Other community needs were met by the publication of an explanatory *Materials Selection Policy,* a list of *Religious Publishing Houses,* a list of *Local Surveys,* and a *Staff Manual* (compiled by staff for staff and accepted by the Board).

Other special services which were either added or continued after January 1968 were numerous. Calling to mind a few, one notes the Books-by-Mail Service started on April 6, 1968, by the Head of Technical Services, Louise Campbell, in response to a patron suggestion. The service was (and still is) restricted to large print books for shut-ins. It is now part of the program of the Reference Department. All the branches and Main have continued cooperating with the schools by displaying art work, sponsoring essay contests, and supplying materials and help to the Volunteer Tutors. Branches have become true community centers with meeting rooms for groups and varied programs for children, offering puppetry, scout displays, summer story hours, film programs, lessons in painting on glass, and the like.

Services to adults were further enhanced by the establishment

SERVICES CHECKLIST

Your COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTER provides you with--among others--the services listed below. Give yourself a self-test by checking the ones you have used or that you knew were available.

___BORROW
  ___books, pamphlets, paperbacks
  ___phonograph records
  ___8 and 16mm motion picture films
  ___35mm slides, filmstrips, multimedia kits
  ___cassette audiotapes, games, posters
  ___8 and 16mm motion picture projectors
  ___projector screens
  ___large-print books
  ___art prints
  ___special equipment, such as speech timer

___Phone for information: dates, population statistics, spelling of words, telephone directory addresses (major Indiana and U.S. cities, availability of a book, etc.)
___Request program planning assistance, or special program resources.
___Read "World of Print" and "Media Mix" in newspapers.
___Use financial reports, stock and investment, and other business information (e.g., "Standard and Poor," "Value Line," "Dun & Bradstreet," "Kiplinger Washington Letter," etc.)
___Request speaker from library staff, or from community resource file.
___Use photocopier, or microfilm print-out machines.
___Receive library-published brochure, reading list, directory, or bulletin for home or organizational use, e.g., "Program Resource Handbook," "Directory of Voluntary Organizations," "Fact Sheet."
___Use Local History Room materials for genealogical or historical research.
___Send child to pre-school story hours, special film or crafts programs.
___Arrange guided tours of library for groups of all ages.
___Use library consultant services for leadership training, workshop planning, or other assistance to groups, agencies, or institutions.
___Use microfilm reader to locate information in newspapers or magazines.
___Use library for reading or study.
___Use information files of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other non-book printed material.
___Request library staff assistance for reading or study guidance.
___Participate in library-sponsored or co-sponsored discussion group (Great Books, Contemporary Books and other educational or public affairs programs).
___Use interlibrary loan service for materials or information not in library's collection (normally involves use of teletype).
___Use Mediamobile, or request schedule of Mediamobile stops.
___Request library staff assistance in collecting materials and information for a speech, committee discussion, or individual study.
___Request use of packets of information on current affairs topics.
___Obtain display space in library to promote community services or special events, or request special display prepared by library.
___Use Books-By-Mail service.

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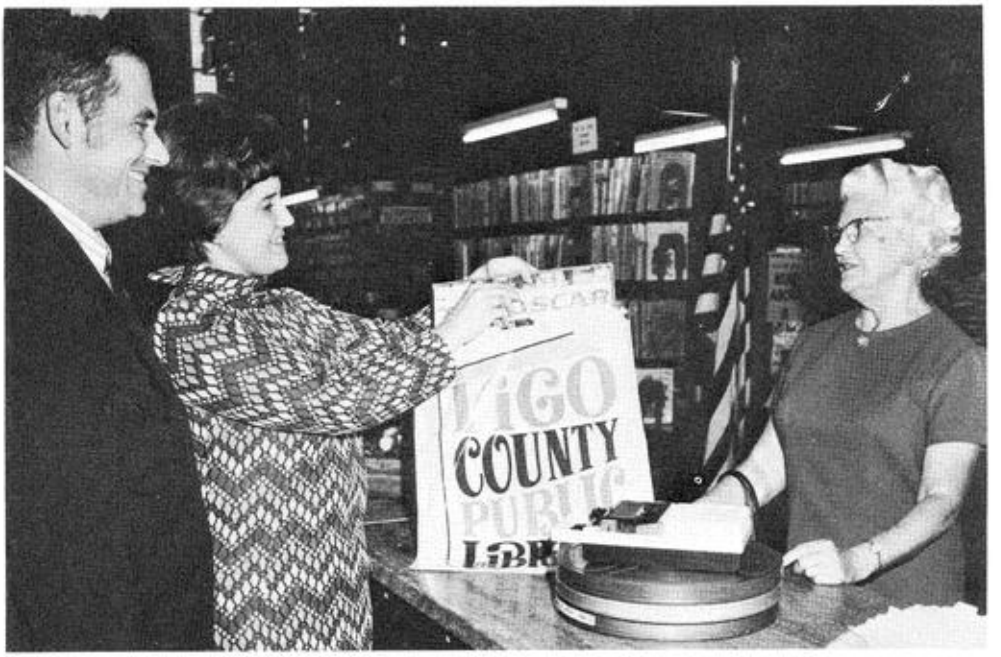


Fig. 34. Plastic tote sack.

of a Drug Information Center in 1970 and the designing and purchase in 1971 of "tote sacks" for the use of patrons in carrying materials home.

The foregoing recital of services designed and added for meeting community needs raises the question, "How could it happen?" Obviously the total staff was involved. And that involvement happened through methods introduced and nurtured by Head Librarian Taylor and Director Howard. Foremost of these methods was participation in training which led to participative management. A plan developed by and for the VCPL staff under the leadership of Ed Howard resulted in the Orbital Organization. In graphic representation, this consisted of a central orbit or circle surrounded by smaller orbits or circles. The central circle is now known as CoCom (Coordinating Committee); it evolved from the Adult Education Steering Committee initiated before 1966 as part of the Adult Education project. The members of the Committee are the Director, Assistant Di-

rector, and all Heads or Coordinators of departments. In describing the work of the Committee at the July 29, 1968, meeting of the Library Board, Mr. Howard said:

> It functions in the solving of problems, the sharing of information, decision-making in the operation of the library which affects more than one department, and policy-making which affects the public. One of the most important areas of . . . responsibility will be in personnel administration.

The smaller circles represent the departments, which include the Coordinator, who serves as the connecting link with the larger body. Thus all staff members have a share in the management of their institution. A more complete description of the plan may be found in "The Orbital Organization," by Edward N. Howard in *Library Journal,* May 1, 1970.

The Planning Programing Budget System (PPBS), popular among administrators in the late 1960s, was effectively used to present the budget to the citizens and to direct the thinking and efforts of the staff toward programs and services. The use of the system in libraries was summarized by Mr. Howard in an article, "Toward PPBS in the Public Library," in *American Libraries,* June 1971. Mr. Howard and two staff members participated in a pre-conference session on the system at the American Library Association meeting in June 1971. As the first step in program budgeting, it was necessary to measure output by services and programs; hence staff began to measure their work by categories in these areas. Monthly report forms were devised by the Director. These were labelled the Complete Services Statistics (CSS) reports; in early 1973 they were changed to Performance Reports with a different format. Despite changes, emphasis has been on services.

In-service training has been a part of the VCPL program ever since Mrs. Hughes requested that the Board send her on a trip to visit libraries and publishers in the East. The Board cooperated then as now; in recent years, staff members have been sent to workshops, institutes, and professional meetings. In addition, monthly staff meetings have been held through the years, and in 1970, a series of luncheon seminars for librarians was held. This involved no expenditure of money or of allotted time. Desks were staffed by clerks, and the professionals ate brown-bag lunches while discussing library procedures and problems. An

article, "Luncheon Seminars," appeared in *Administrator's Digest* in March 1971, and VCPL received 124 requests from 33 states and provinces for copies of the information. Annual two-day Staff Institutes, for which the Board closed the library, also contributed to staff training.

Participation in the library world led to greater and more concerned involvement of staff. An outstanding example of this was the entry of the *Publicity Scrapbook* in the John Cotton Dana contest sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company at the 1968 ALA annual meeting. It was a day of great rejoicing when the staff received word that VCPL had won the:

> Special Award for its well-devised approach to broadening the base of library users through many avenues while revitalizing the public's appreciation of existing library services.

Recognition came also when the Director was named Librarian of the Year by the Indiana Library Trustees Association, and again when he was featured in the "Personalities" column of the April 1974 issue of *American Libraries*. Individual staff members were encouraged to share library experiences with their peers by writing for publication in state and national journals. Evidence of that involvement can be seen in the list of twenty-five articles published by staff which Mr. Howard compiled in 1973.[6]

In his pursuit of answers to the needs of the community, Director Howard endorsed and encouraged efficient methods and equipment. Problems were approached from the view of systems analysis. The use of Library Processing Systems microfiche to speed cataloging was begun in January 1973, and an "In Process" shelf was established soon after. Thus materials were made available to the public as soon as they arrived.

More specialized information was made available by joining the computerized Indiana Information Retrieval System (INDIRS), a project sponsored by Indiana University School of Business. Modern communication techniques have since been used to make the contents of the University's data bank instantly available to selected Indiana libraries and their patrons. Information from other data banks was added so that all 92 Indiana counties and 200 leading communities are covered. The system became operative at VCPL on August 10, 1972, and has served the community ever since.

On July 15, 1974, the Library Board approved VCPL's participation in the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA) as a further aid to rapid cataloging and processing of materials. The move also opened the door to complete statewide cooperative use of material.

VCPL became a leader in another cooperative effort when the Assistant Director, Betty Martin, was elected to chair the committee for organizing Region 7 of the Area Library Services Authority (ALSA) in early 1974. At this writing, funding for the Region is a problem; however, the committee is alert and will continue when money is available.

So the New Era was marked by an outstanding effort to sense the needs of the community and to answer those needs.

13

BUILDING FOR A COUNTY SYSTEM

> Modern public library service cannot be provided in a building erected before World War I from blueprints based on an early 20th century philosophy of library service.

Mr. Taylor's appraisal of the EFML building is clearly summarized in the above statement made in his 1962 *Annual Report.* The painting and lighting program entered into by Mr. Taylor immediately after his arrival at EFML attested to his dissatisfaction with the "grand" old building.

On September 23, 1959, he found it necessary to write a letter to John Biel, refusing storage for the Rotary Club records because of lack of space. Then after summarizing the first year of county service in his 1961 *Annual Report,* Mr. Taylor said that a new building should become the concrete objective of the Board, staff, and community. Following his lead, the annual Staff Institute in June 1962 took as its topic "Planning for a New Library to Meet the Needs for Future Growth of the EFML." Mr. Carl Vitz, a recognized authority on library building, acted as resource person for the Institute. At another time the new glass and aluminum doors were spoken of as an addition to an "old building."[1]

In December 1965, the Fairbanks Adult Education Committee was looking toward the establishment of an Adult Education Center in a new building, and Mr. Tinkle, Head of the Adult Education Department, was instructed to gather specific ideas for the establishment of such a center. Actually to one who worked in the EFML building during the 1960s, anticipation of

a new building was the accepted response to heating, lighting, space, and arrangement problems.

Through the years, Mr. Taylor's frequent statements of goals and policies emphasized two points: the need for a new building and the complete separation of the public library and the public schools. Withdrawal of branches from the schools has been noted earlier in this account; then on May 4, 1964, Mr. Taylor issued a statement of "Future Planning for Public Library Service in Vigo County," in which he emphasized the importance of separating the schools and public library. He followed that in October 1965 with the suggestion that a separate Board and a new library building were the most important future objectives. In 1962, a program was outlined for establishing a building fund based on a tax rate which would make a new building possible in 1976 (fifteen years later).

The Library Improvement Reserve Fund (LIRF) became a part of the annual operating budget in 1964. With that action, the Board recognized a new building as a future goal.

The other major question, a separate board, had been raised before: in 1906 and 1953. Both times the School Board had not seen fit to relinquish its responsibility for the library. That responsibility had been assumed through an offer made by the Board at the time the 1906 building was turned over to it by the City Council.[2] In 1953, the Board and community debated the issue of a separate board as the answer to staff problems, and the Board decision that it had a responsibility to continue was reported in the *Saturday Spectator*.[3] But the idea of a separate board, as well as of a new building, was firmly entrenched and would not disappear. In January 1969, the president of the Board asked the Library Director to prepare a position paper exploring the advantages and disadvantages of a separate library board. At the conclusion of the study and as a result of Mr. Howard's findings, the Board again voted in May 1969 to continue its current status as a school-library board.

While the Board was struggling with its responsibilities, the community was dreaming of a new building. Citizens saw the absence of parking space near the current building as a critical problem. Adequate meeting rooms where informational materials might be used and a street-level entrance (the long flight of steps at the entrance to the EFML building is prohibitive to all but the physically sturdy) were two outstanding desires—

Fig. 35. Original minutes of 1879 organizational meeting of Terre Haute Library Association restored and preserved by Nathaniel Foote Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century.

and they still are. The need for air-conditioning and more reading and study areas was frequently voiced. As in the early days, citizens gave the library treasured records and other materials in increasing numbers, making more adequate storage space imperative.

"Dreams" and outright "needs" were also in the minds of the staff. They worked in "offices" created in corners of public rooms by using bookshelves as dividers, and they spent time and energy devising methods of handling and storing the ever-increasing volume and variety of materials needed for the expanding county service. The Assistant Director, Betty Martin, summarized building needs in a position paper on the question, "What are the conditions at EFML that are building toward a crisis situation requiring a decision." This writer, Co-

Fig. 36. Dr. A. W. Cavins presents 50-year-old 16mm film of doctors who were practicing medicine in Vigo County in the 1920s.

ordinator of Technical Services at the time, well remembers applauding Mrs. Martin's statement that the Technical Services Department was "already in a critical condition." Director Howard issued in March 1969 a statement, "Planning Today for Future Needs," in which he spoke in concrete terms of space needs, outlined services possible in the future, and presented a timetable for the construction of a new building.

So the community was aware of the needs, and on March 9, 1969, the Board of Aviation Commissioners offered to sell to the Library Board at a cost of $389,500 the Wiley High School property as a building site. The property had come into the hands of the Aviation Commissioners as a result of an exchange of properties in the construction of the new high schools just prior to that. Many factors were favorable to the proposal. The

Fig. 37. Jacqueline Becker presents 1960s historical records of HELP (Housewives Effort for Local Progress).

survey made by Carl Vitz in the early 1960s had recommended a site near Seventh and Wabash. Former Wiley students had fond memories of the location. Tradition-bound citizens went back farther. Wiley High School was *the* High School (renamed for Terre Haute's famous superintendent of schools) of early Terre Haute, and the site offered for sale included the land purchased in the 1890s by the School Board for the construction of a public library, but not used when Crawford Fairbanks made the gift of the EFML building to the city.

The months following the offer of the Aviation Commissioners to sell the site were busy ones for the citizens and the library staff. Alternate offers and proposals of sites were made; even large, unoccupied, commercial buildings were offered with the idea of renovating them for a library. Citizens began to

Fig. 38. Fort Harrison Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, presents *The Hereditary Register of the United States of America, 1972.*

speak out in favor of certain locations; for instance, HELP (Housewives Effort for Local Progress) strongly supported the Wiley site in the May 1969 issue of its monthly *Report.* W-2 devoted an Editorial broadcast on May 26, 1969, to urging the selection of a definite site since a building was needed. The Staff Association held a Saturday morning meeting to discuss sites and express an opinion as one body. An ad hoc Citizens Advisory Committee was appointed by the Board on October 15, 1973, too late to advise on the site, but indicating the Board's desire for guidance.

Meetings of the two boards were held, and there were appraisals and negotiations. When it became apparent that the Wiley site was favored, the property, approximately five acres, was purchased for $279,000 in May 1970. By December 1973,

Fig. 39. John Jackson presents his original drawing of historical map and sites in Vigo County.

the land was cleared of all buildings and topographic and property surveys were made.

During the years in which the land was being purchased and prepared for a new building, the library staff continued developing a county system devoted to service. The value of longevity in term of service by personnel was recognized when at the Staff Institute in June 1975 Mr. Howard gave awards to 37 staff members for 5 to 20 years of service. At the time he said to the recipients: "Your loyalty and commitment is the library's greatest resource." This recognition was considered valuable enough to continue in subsequent years.

The mediamobile project carried out in the 1970s resulted in a vehicle so well designed to serve in a county system that it became a real hit at the American Library Association's Cen-

Fig. 40. Krietenstein Post 104, American Legion, presents photographic record of World War I.

tennial Conference of July 1976 in Chicago. The storage and communications facilities attracted librarians from around the nation.[4]

In addition to carrying forward the work of the system, the staff began the planning basic to a new building. The first step was a building program statement. To act as consultant in developing it, Robert M. Miller, architect, was employed by the Board on September 20, 1971. Mr. Howard wanted each member of the staff to be involved with the planning. So he asked each of the service units in the main building to develop a statement of its functions. This was accomplished through the Orbital Organization with an outline guide developed by the Coordinating Committee. The statements of functions led to statements of space needed as well as relationships to the public and to each other. Thus a kind of a systems analysis took place.

Fig. 41. Site for the new building.

The "pulse" of the community also was taken into consideration when a two-month period for citizen suggestions and reactions was set up in the winter of 1971-1972. The Director and Mr. Miller announced conference places and hours in the main library building, the courthouse, and shopping centers for people to ask questions and record their suggestions on "Help Plan The New Library" forms. These suggestions, plus the staff outlines of functions and his estimated building costs, were compiled by Mr. Miller into a "Building Program Statement."

September 18, 1972, was the Board meeting date set for presenting the document to the Library Board. The members of the staff who were present watched the Board members as Mr. Miller presented the "Building Program Statement" and then listened with bated breath for comments. The atmosphere was tense, some questions were asked. Finally, it was

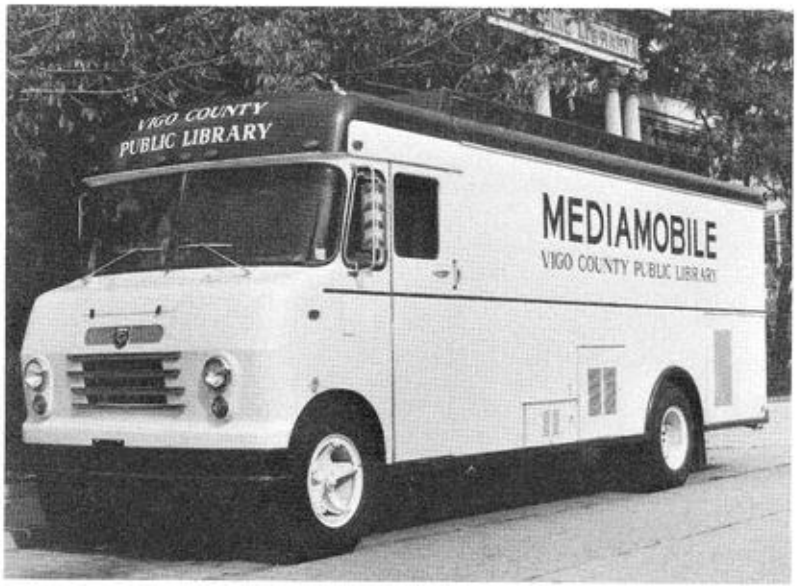


Fig. 42. Mediamobile.

decided that the Board needed time to study the "Building Program Statement." The Board, also the School Board, had recently gone through the building of several new schools; hence, it was conscious of costs. Unfortunately, the Library Improvement Reserve Fund had not accumulated nearly enough money to cover the estimated cost of the building after purchasing and clearing the property. Therefore, it was voted to accept the report, with further action deferred pending study by the Board. The hopes of the staff were dashed as they watched the solemn faces take that action. "Would they have an opportunity to justify their requests?" "Would the Board insist upon too many cuts in space and other needs?" It was a quiet group that filed out of the room that night. More waiting after so much hard work!

Bonds were investigated as a means of securing the needed money, and it was learned they would not sell because the School Board-operated library was in Class II according to the Library Law of 1947. So, once again, the issue of a separate board assumed importance. In order to explore every

market for bonds, the Indianapolis law firm of Ice, Miller, Donadio and Ryan was engaged as bond counsel in April 1974.

July 15, 1974, marked a turning point in the library's fortune. The feasibility of converting to Class I, with an appointed board, had been under study by the Board as well as by the Citizen's Advisory Committee chaired by Mr. Arch Dunbar. At the Board meeting of July 15, a resolution was introduced to convert to a Class I library, which meant the School Board would sever relations with the library, and a new seven-member board would be appointed. The resolution passed unanimously.

In accord with the vote of the School-Library Board, a new Library Board was appointed: three members by the judge of the County Circuit Court, two members by the County Commissioners, and two by the School Board. The new Board with the library as its one and only responsibility consisted of Arch Dunbar, president; George Dunkin, vice-president; Rosemary Duwelius, secretary; David Johnston, treasurer; and Ethel Bell, Ned Bush, Sr., and Carolyn Henson.

Soon after the new board assumed its duties in July 1974, it was learned that not only were the members interested in the welfare of their county library but also one of them had inherited that interest from his early ancestors. George Dunkin's grandfather, Frank M. Dunkin, was a member of the School-Library Board from February 27, 1903, until his death on November 19, 1905. He had been elected president of the Board on August 1, 1905; his grandson, George, was elected vice-president of the new board in 1974. Both men served at times when new buildings were of major interest. On November 21, 1905, Frank Dunkin was memorialized in the following words:

> Mr. Dunkin gave the schools a wise and economical administration. He had the highest conception of a public position, and deemed it his duty to give the people, whose public servant he considered himself, the best possible account of his stewardship . . . the community felt that with Frank Dunkin in a position of responsibility they had a friend at court.[5]

With regard to the second new building, the creation of a separate board cleared the way for obtaining the needed funds. However, more legal problems arose, much the same as they had

Fig. 43. Class I Library Board, July 1974.

in 1906. The legality of the Library Board operating and taxing as a county unit was questioned; it was discovered that at the time schools were consolidated to form the county corporation, the library was not declared a county system in writing. So in January 1975, the legal question regarding the library's corporate territory was presented to Superior Court No. 2 in a class action suit by the League of Women Voters.

On June 25, 1975, Judge Charles K. McCrory signed the judgment in favor of the Vigo County Public Library; thus the new Class I Library Board was declared the legal governing body for VCPL with authority to levy taxes. This judgment finally removed all obstacles to the construction of a new main

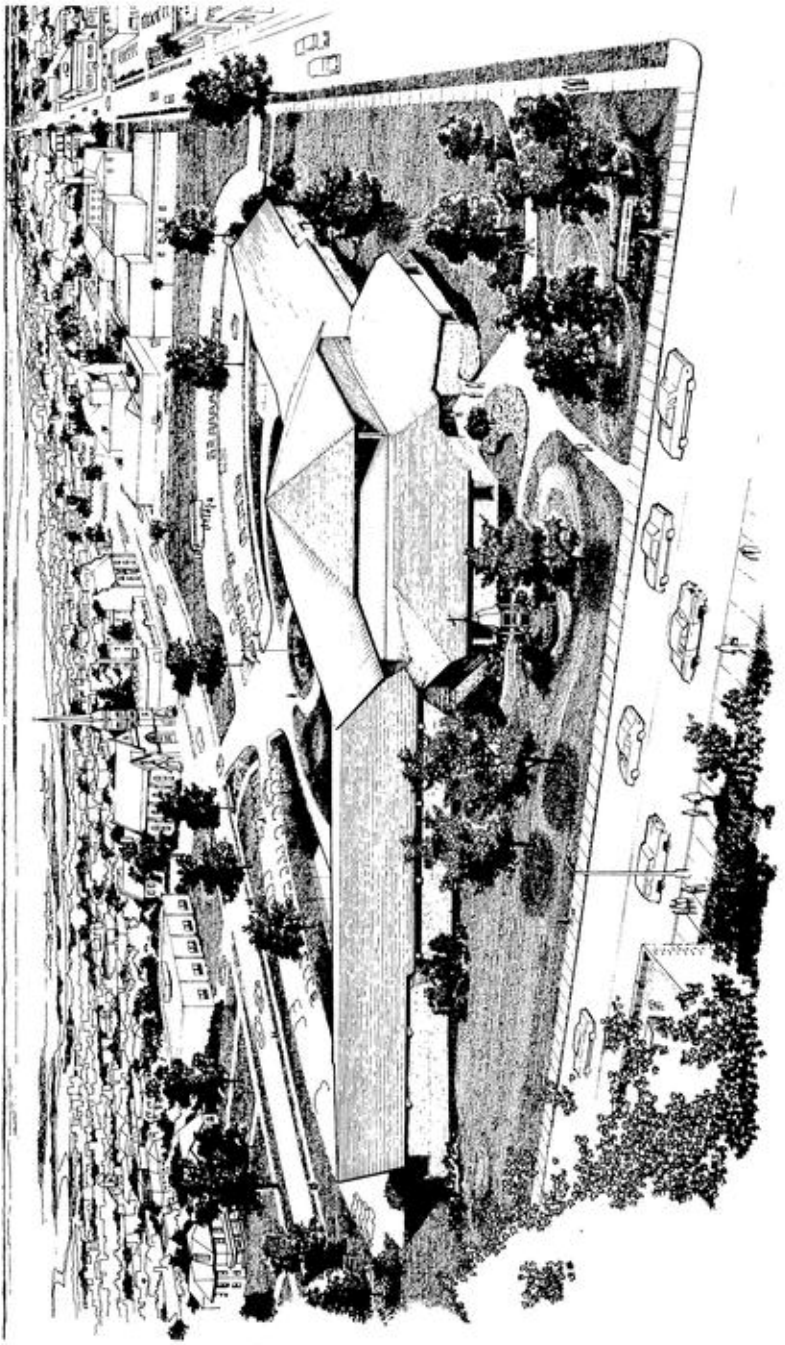


Fig. 44. Architect's sketch of new building.

building for the VCPL system. The joy of the news was reflected in the faces of the staff and the citizens who were involved. There *would* be a building from which to operate the County System.

The Staff Institute that summer reviewed the "Building Program Statement" for possible changes and additions, and work and planning moved ahead with certainty and speed.

The story has gone full circle. Terre Haute, now part of the larger area, Vigo County, awaits the fulfillment of the promise of a new library building. Will the shared ownership of an architecturally beautiful addition to the city once again create among all citizens a feeling of pride in their library as a cultural and educational center? The account given here shows many precedents and incentives for future accomplishments. May the new building inspire in the hearts of its beholders the zeal and dedication which carried the citizens of the last seventy years to the present point in the creation of a county system!

And what of the fine old building which provided the solid foundation for that creative action, Will it be retired with the dignity and respect due a symbol of the work and dreams of those years?

Future decades will have much to tell.

NOTES

PREFACE

1. J. Robert Constantine, "The Role of Libraries in the Cultural History of Indiana," *Indiana Library Studies,* Report No. 2. (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University, 1970) p. 55.
2. See Time Line, Appendix E.

CHAPTER 1

1. Susan W. Ball, "Woman's World; Our New Library," *Saturday Spectator,* August 18, 1906, p. 3
2. *The First Annual Report of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library for the Year August 1, 1906 to August 1, 1907,* Terre Haute, Indiana: Moore-Langen, 1907
3. "Recent Library Building," *Public Libraries,* July, 1906, pp. 410–412
4. "The Emmaline Fairbanks Memorial Library at Terre Haute, Indiana," *Indianapolis World,* September 19, 1914, p. 1
5. "Recent Library Building," pp. 410–412
6. A. R. Markle, "First Sale of Lots Here Raised Some Money for First Library," *Terre Haute Tribune,* October 26, 1947, p. 4
7. C. C. Oakey, *Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County,* 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1908) Vol. 1 p. 54
8. Ibid
9. "Preston House 'Ghost' Is Halloween Favorite," *Terre Haute Star,* October 28, 1974, p. 1
10. Oakey, *Greater Terre Haute* p. 54
11. Markle, "First Sale of Lots," *Terre Haute Tribune,* October 26, 1947, p. 4
12. W. E. Henry, *Municipal and Institutional Libraries of Indiana* (Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, 1904) p. 145
13. *Revised Statutes of Indiana, 1852* (Indianapolis, Indiana: J. P. Chapman State Printer, 1852) pp. 355–356

14. *Laws of the State of Indiana, 1867* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Conner, State Printer, 1867) pp. 177–178
15. Henry, *Municipal and Institutional Libraries,* Frontispiece
16. R.E. Banta, "Indiana's First Libraries," *Indianapolis Star Magazine,* March 16, 1956, pp. 32 & 54
17. William Halstead Wiley, *History of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, 1879–1916* (Terre Haute, Indiana, 1916) (Typewritten) pp. 14–23
18. Grace E. Davis, "Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library," *Wabash Valley Review,* January, 1921, pp. 7–8
19. In early 1975, these documents were permanently preserved by lamination. This special and expensive process was a gift to the VCPL from the Nathaniel Foote Chapter of Colonial Dames in honor of Mrs. John Ennis, national president of the organization.
20. Wiley, *History of the EFML,* p. 23
21. S. B. Gookins, "History of Vigo County" in H. Beckwith, *History of Vigo and Parke County* (Chicago: H.H. Hill and N. Iddings, Publisher, 1879) p. 148
22. See Appendix H for the complete letter
23. Gookins, "History of Vigo County," p. 148
24. *Indiana Acts, 1881–83*
25. "Twenty-ninth Annual Report," *Reports, Terre Haute Public Schools, 1892–1896* (Terre Haute, Indiana: 1896) p. 160
26. Henry, *Municipal and Institutional Libraries,* Appendix
27. "Twenty-ninth Annual Report," p. 160
28. Board of Trustees of the School City of Terre Haute, Indiana, *Minutes,* August 24, 1894–May 25, 1900, p. 12
29. "Twenty-ninth Annual Report," p. 160
30. Board of Trustees of the School City of Terre Haute, Indiana, *Minutes,* May 11, 1896
31. Henry, *Municipal and Institutional Libraries,* p. 60

CHAPTER 2

1. "A Beautiful Library for Terre Haute," *Terre Haute Gazette,* January 26, 1903, p. 1
2. Note the spelling of Emeline. The *a* was used during 1903, then gradually changed to *e*. Other spellings were Emiline and Emmaline.
3. "Cornerstone of the New Library Was Laid Today," *Terre Haute Gazette,* August 10, 1904
4. "Librarian Resigns As Result of Clash," *Terre Haute Morning Star,* May 1, 1906, p. 4
5. Ibid
6. Terre Haute, Indiana. *Journal of Proceedings of the Common Council, 1906,* May 1
7. Ibid
8. *Proceedings of the Common Council, 1906,* Special Ordinance, p. 1668
9. *Proceedings of the Common Council,* April 7, 1908, p. 97

10. Terre Haute, Indiana, Vigo County Public Library, Office Files, "EFML—History—Letters"
11. Indiana State Library, Extension Files, "Correspondence (Terre Haute)," Indianapolis, Indiana
12. Interview with Ruth Adamson, retired staff member of VCPL, Terre Haute, Indiana, September, 1974
13. An undated memo included in the volume *Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Annual Reports,* 1903–1955, Terre Haute, Indiana

CHAPTER 3

1. The combined paper was known as the *Tribune Gazette* for a short time, then became the *Terre Haute Tribune*
2. Indiana State Library Extension Files, "Vigo County Public Library," (microfilm)
3. Vigo County Public Library, Office Files, "EFML—History—Letters"
4. Paul Dickson, "America in Three Dimensions," *Americana,* March 1975, pp. 2–7
5. Note the discrepancy in spelling; "Radiopticon" appears in EFML records and one dictionary definition, but "Radioptican" is on the front of the pictured model
6. *EFML Annual Report,* 1913–14. (The July 24, 1914, date in the reprinted article must be a misprint.)
7. A memo bound with *EFML Annual Report,* 1928
8. Susan W. Ball, "Woman's World; Our New Library," *Saturday Spectator,* August 18, 1906, p. 3
9. "Early History of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library," Interview with Ethel Hughes. Terre Haute, Indiana, July, 1974 (Taped)

CHAPTER 4

1. "Early History of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library," Interview with Ethel Hughes
2. Leatha Paddock, "Terre Haute Public Library," in W.E. Henry, *Municipal and Institutional Libraries of Indiana,* pp. 145–47
3. "Early History of EFML," Interview with Ethel Hughes
4. Sallie Hughes to Mr. Bertram, March 23, 1914, VCPL Office File, "EFML—History—Letters"
5. Indiana State Library, Extension Files, "Vigo County Public Library" (Microfilm)
6. *Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Annual Report,* 1907–08
7. Vigo County Library Board, *Minutes,* August 1, 1925–July 31, 1927, p. 400

CHAPTER 5

1. *EFML Annual Report,* 1931
2. See the annual reports for that period

3. Vigo County Historical Museum, Files, "Sallie C. Hughes"
4. Interviews with librarians who worked with Miss Grace Davis
5. Ibid
6. Miss Hazel Bungard relates that she was able to rank well at the University of Illinois Library School after taking training from Grace Davis.
7. See Appendix D for a listing of staff members
8. Kay O'Day and Margaret Gillum, "Miss Florence Crawford," *Saturday Spectator,* May 25, 1973, p. 9
9. John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields"
10. *EFML Annual Report,* 1928–29
11. Ibid
12. The EFML building was referred to as "Main"
13. *EFML Annual Report,* 1932–33
14. Florence Crawford to W.A. King, Seattle, Washington, in favor of school libraries, February 28, 1928, Vigo County Public Library, Office Files, "EFML—History—Letters"
15. Auditor's records

CHAPTER 6

1. *Library-related News Clippings,* 1945–1951, "Question and Answer Column," Book no. 34 (Indianapolis, Indiana: Luther, 1973)
2. "Fairbanks Library to Observe Its 40th Anniversary on August 11," *Terre Haute Star,* August 2, 1946, p. 1
3. VCPL, Office Files, "Teel Fund"
4. Ibid
5. Ibid
6. O'Day, "Miss Florence Crawford," *Saturday Spectator,* May 25, 1963, p. 6

CHAPTER 7

1. See Appendix I

CHAPTER 8

1. A bookmobile carrying many types of media: books, cassette tapes, 16mm films, phonorecords, and games
2. *Mr. Taylor's Notebook,* October, 1953–December, 1956, VCPL Office Files
3. *EFML Annual Report,* 1960
4. *Fairbanks Library Bulletin,* October 1954

CHAPTER 9

1. American Library Association, *Preliminary Statement of Revised Standards for Public Libraries* (Chicago: ALA, 1955)
2. See Appendix I

3. Stillman Taylor's outlined policy for EFML, September 28, 1956, VCPL, Office Files, "EFML—History"
4. Ibid
5. Introduction to 1955 budget, VCPL Office Files, "EFML—History"
6. *Annual Report,* 1959
7. Taylor's outlined policy for EFML, September 28, 1956
8. Fairbanks Adult Education Committee, *Minutes,* August 20, 1958, VCPL, Office Files

CHAPTER 10

1. *Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library Annual Report,* 1960, p. 1

CHAPTER 12

1. *HELP Report,* March 1968, p. 1. (*HELP* is Housewives Effort for Local Progress.)
2. Edward N. Howard, "Terre Haute: No One Has Asked," *Wilson Library Bulletin,* May 1969, pp. 888–892
3. Edward N. Howard, "Pome and the Mediamobile," *Catholic Library World,* April 1975, pp. 384–387
4. Ibid
5. "Report of the Director of Public Libraries to the Vigo County Library Board," January 15, 1968. (Typewritten) p. 1
6. "Bibliography—VCPL Staff Publications in State and National Journals," Terre Haute, Indiana: VCPL, [January, 1973]

CHAPTER 13

1. *EFML Annual Report, 1963*
2. *Proceedings of the Common Council,* 1906 (Letter to the Council)
3. *Saturday Spectator,* July 11, 1953, pp. 3–4
4. "Vigo Bookmobile Conference Hit," *Terre Haute Tribune,* August 4, 1976, p. 19
5. *Terre Haute Public Schools Forty-third Annual Report, Year Ending July 31, 1906* (Terre Haute, Indiana: Moore-Langen, 1907) p. 7

APPENDIXES

A

HEAD LIBRARIANS AND DIRECTORS

LUCY C. WONNER
May 20, 1882—May 1895

LEATHA M. PADDOCK
May 1895—April 30, 1906

SALLIE C. HUGHES
May 1, 1906—February 13, 1927

FLORENCE P. CRAWFORD
February 23, 1927—August 1, 1951

HAZEL E. BUNGARD (ACTING)
August 1, 1951—October 1, 1953

STILLMAN K. TAYLOR
October 1, 1953—June 9, 1967

BETTY C. MARTIN (ACTING)
April 16, 1967—January 1, 1968

EDWARD N. HOWARD
January 1, 1968—

B

CLASS I LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

July 29, 1974–

ETHEL D. BELL
NED A. BUSH, SR.
ARCH R. DUNBAR
GEORGE E. DUNKIN
ROSEMARY K. DUWELIUS
CAROLYN K. HENSON
DAVID L. JOHNSTON

C

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

serving as the
LIBRARY BOARD
May 20, 1882 — July 29, 1974

Acher, Virginia M. 1925–28
Adams, Clark 1934–47
Annakin, Dewey 1953–55
Ball, Wililam C. 1874–81
Becherer, George 1934–39
Bell, Iverson 1964–74
Beshaw, Raymond 1961–62
Bloxsome, John L. 1948–59
Bogart, Paul N. 1930–34
Boland, Nicholas 1886–93
Briggs, Harry 1949–52
Britton, Judson Q. 1894–99
Broadhurst, Charles 1937–44
Caldwell, Charlotte E. 1966–74
Clark, Dorothy J. 1960
Clift, John M. 1896–98
Cowan, Edward B. 1923–26
Curry, Harvey W. 1900–02
Davis, Ida M. 1891–93
Deming, Herman J. 1927–31
1940–49
Derry, Oscar G. 1906–07
Diehl, William 1962–64
Dix, George O. 1909–10
Duffy, Joseph P. 1922–25
Dunbar, Arch 1962–70
Dunkin, Frank M. 1903–05
Engles, William C. 1902–03
English, James P. 1901–03
Ethington, W. A. 1908–10
Farmer, Peter A. 1962–74
Gerstmeyer, Charles 1916–19
Goodman, Florence 1958–60
Greenleaf, George W. 1913–20
Haas, Paul D. 1962–74
Hahn, Ray H. 1953–62
Harkness, John R. 1913–19
Harrison, Harold F. 1960
Hathaway, Arthur S. 1910–13
Haupt, Charles A. 1919–23
Herber, Emma L. 1932–36
Hidden, Morton 1921–36

Hoermann, Frank 1931–35
Hoff, Charles W. 1888–90
Hollis, Mary 1950–53
Humphrey, Paul E. 1959–62
Hunter, John 1943–48
Karshner, Kenneth D. 1959
Kehoe, Thomas M. 1905–13
Kendall, James R. 1884–86
Kessel, William G. 1962–72
Landrum, James W. 1882–84
Liggett, Robert 1950–59
Lindemann, Gustave 1893–95
Llewellyn, William 1970–74
Love, John R. 1928–29
McHargue, Ralph S. 1962–64
Manhart, Austin F. 1961–62
Marshall, Buena V. 1898–1900
Martin, Hubert P. 1926–28
Meighen, Arthur D. 1961–62
Mendenhall, William F. 1923–31
Miller, Jacob T. H. 1898–1901
Miller, Morley O. 1955–1959
Morris, Richard A. 1881–83
Morris, Virgil E. 1961–62
Neukom, Adolph 1906–08
O'Mara, Andrew 1912–20
Ranes, George R. 1951–52
Richardson, Joseph 1886–89
Sandison, Howard 1895–97
Schmidt, Henry F. 1914–21
Scudder, William H. 1885–88
Short, Jay 1934–50
Somes, James E. 1912–16
Stein, Nicholas, Jr. 1880–85
Stimson, Stella C. 1912–16
Sutherland, John E. 1961–74
Valle, John 1972–74
Van Valzah, Robert 1878–80
Waters, Moses H. 1890–92
Weber, Joseph G. S. 1953–58
West, Henry J. 1939–48
White, Lillian J. 1922–25
Wiley, William H. 1910–13
William, Homer L. 120–24
Woolford, Alfred J. 1930–40
Zenor, Homer 1927–29

D

The author regrets that the diversity of available records has made it impossible to avoid some omissions

STAFF MEMBERS

LIBRARIANS, CLERKS, PAGES, SUBSTITUTES, DRIVERS, AND CUSTODIANS

1882–1975

Adams, Jenny
Adams, Meryl
Adamson, Jane
Adamson, Ruth
Akers, Diane
Alexander, Connie
Anderson, Mary
Armstrong, Hazel
Arnett, Patricia
Arnett, Ruth
Aroc, Leonora
Arthur, Margaret

Artis, David
Asbury, Virginia
Atchley, Ruth
Atwood, Emily
Bailey, Rebekah
Bain, Leslie, Jr.
Baker, Barbara
Baker, Sandra
Bannon, Doris
Barnhart, Mary
Barrick, Louise
Bartell, Patricia
Baysinger, Mary
Beavers, Jean
Beckley, Sarah
Bedwell, Gary
Beida, Mohamad
Bell, Karen
Bennett, Pauline
Berry, Dennis
Biddle, Emily
Bevilacqua, Mary
Bledsoe, Hilda
Blevens, Cheryl
Bock, Karen
Bolin, Floetta
Bond, Dean
Bonewits, Theresa Cleveland
Boyd, Frances
Boyd, Harmon
Boyd, Merry
Boyer, Mary
Bradley, Susan
Braun, Maryrose
Brenton, Donna
Brewer, Patricia
Brink, Clarence
Brink, Terrie
Bristol, Patricia
Brockman, Patricia
Bronnert, Lois
Brooks, Cassandra
Brooks, Jean
Brooks, Lillian
Brown, Deborah
Brown, Karen
Brunello, Brenda
Brunner, Cleo
Buckalew, Charles
Bungard, Hazel
Bungard, Helen
Burris, Phyllis
Button, Florence
Cain, Annabelle
Campbell, Louise Love
Cargnino, Barbara
Carothers, Toni
Carr, Rebecca
Casarjian, Ellen
Cavitt, Deborah
Champion, Carol
Charleck, Denise
Christy, Vernon
Chunn, Mardell
Ciancone, Elizabeth
Clark, Constance Walk
Clark, Homer
Clark, Josephine
Clark, Rena
Clark, Richard
Clavio, James
Cline, Debra
Clouse, Gary
Coleman, Carol Garrigus
Colglazier, Anna Schalburg
Corenflos, Adrien, Jr.
Corey, Deanna
Cork, Beverly
Cotts, Patricia
Couchman, Julia
Covert, Jane
Cox, Winifred
Craig, George Anne
Crawford, Florence

Crawford, Naomi
Creasey, James
Crimans, Kathleen
Cristee, Suzanne
Cumbow, Linda
Cundiff, Claire
Cundiff, Lynne
Curley, Caren
Damon, Elizabeth
Daniels, Mildred
Davern, Margaret
Davis, Ethel
Davis, Grace
Deane, Phyllis
Deming, Pauline
Dill, Sandra
Dodd, Charles
Dodson, Betty
Dodson, May
Dolan, Patricia
Donofrio, Brenda Webber
Donofrio, William
Dorsey, Clementine
Dragon, William
Drollinger, Nancy Riggle
Dupies, Nikki
Dutra, Timothy
Dwyer, Anna
Dwyer, Marian
Dyer, James
Edmons, Carrie
Effner, Steven
Eichelberger, Octavia
Eli, Lauren
Elliott, William
Ellis, Karen
Elmblade, Carl
Enders, Hellen
Esbenshade, Lucile
Evanovich, Alvin
Fahy, Edward
Fairchild, Jane
Fairrow, Stella
Fallowfield, Evelyn
Farrand, Esther
Featherston, Donna
Felton, Patti
Feutz, Alice
Fields, Stella
Fish, Laura
Fishback, Mary
Fisher, Marilyn
Fisher, Nancy
Flanagan, Thomas
Flesher, David
Flint, Geraldine
Flowers, Frances
Foli, Margaret
Foulkes, Jane
Francis, Kathryen
Froeb, Karolyn
Fuhr, Ruby
Gammon, Brenda
Garino, Diane Wilcox
Garino, Julie Miller
Gates, Fletcher
Gayer, Roy
Gfroerer, Sue
Gillis, John
Glover, Cora
Gobin, Michael
Gordon, Twig
Gordon, Wilma
Gottman, Laura
Green, John
Gregory, Harold
Gregory, Sylvia
Grench, Charles
Griffin, Carol
Grigsby, Curtis
Grimes, Elizabeth
Grissom, Deborah
Gudeman, Pamela Pauli
Gummere, Johanna

Haas, Rebecca
Hackett, Diane
Hagerdon, Judith
Hale, Sally
Hall, Allan M.
Hamblen, Hazel
Hardin, Linda Fagg
Harkness, Maud
Harrah, Gladys
Harris, David
Harris, Lois
Harris, Maryann Peters
Harris, Robert
Haupt, Olive
Hawk, Janelle
Hayden, William
Hayworth, Judy
Headley, Helen
Hearn, Charles
Hefflin, Mary Higginbotham
Heller, Mary
Heller, Sylvia
Heramb, Debra
Herbst, Margaret
Hermanson, Rayburn
Herrin, Bronwen
Hibben, Mildred
Higgins, Jean
Hill, Naomi
Hill, Ruby
Hipkiss, Dorothy
Hochstetler, Anna
Hochstetler, James
Hodge, Keith
Hoffman, Debra
Hogan, Michael
Hollar, Connie
Hollis, John
Hollis, Mildred
Hopp, William
Hord, Gloria
Hord, Jessie
Hornbeak, William
Horning, Charles, Jr.
Howard, Edward
Howell, Anna
Hudson, Laura
Huey, Susan
Hughes, LaVerne
Hughes, Sallie
Hughes, Thomas
Hull, Sondra
Hungerford, James
Hunt, Hugh
Hunt, Janice
Hunt, Phyllis
Hunter, Eleanor Klueh
Hunter, Ruth Richart
Huston, Kenneth
Ireland, Michael
Israeli, Nasser
Jackson, Jill
Jackson, Mary
Jackson, Roger
Jandebeur, Louise
Jepson, Edith McLean
Johnson, Elizabeth
Johnson, Judith A.
Johnson, Judy K.
Johnston, Linda
Johonnot, Dorothy
Jones, John
Jones, L. D.
Jones, Nancy
Jones, Ruth
Jones, Thomas
Kane, Joyce
Kaskus, Andrea
Katzenbach, Cora
Katzenbach, Emilie
Kautz, Phoebe
Kester, Rayna
Kettelhut, Gloria
Kinder, Sherry

Kinsey, Saundra McPherson
Kirchner, Judith
Kirk, Charles
Kleber, David
Kleber, Jean
Kost, Barbara
Krackenberger, Alma
Krackenberger, Kenneth
Kragh, Frances Perkins
Kutchan, Trillis
Kuykendall, Cynthia
Kuykendall, Debra
Kuykendall, Marcella
LaBier, Evelyn
Lammers, Lillian
Landers, Edris
Latta, Nancy
Lawrence, Margaret
Lawrence, Sharon
Lawton, Marcia
Laybold, Lillian
Lee, Wanda
Legg, Alison
Legg, Leslie
Lemmon, Bruce
Liehr, Kaythern
Liffick, Carol
Liffick, Katherine
Light, Beverly
Lightfoot, Margaret
Lindholm, Sharon
Lloyd, Irvin
Lloyd, Jayne
Lobbia, Carolyn Hixon
Lohmeyer, James
Long, Marie
Lowry, Pamela
Lungsford, Lorali
Lurkins, Jackie
Lutz, William
McAllister, Marsha
McCammack, Hiram
McCleary, Janet Rice
McConnell, Sharon
McCoskey, Phyllis
McCullough, Ethel
McDonnall, William
McDonough, Gale
McDonough, Irene
McFarland, Raymond
McKee, Minnie
McKee, Roy
McKee, Ruby
McKinney, Martha
Mace, Darlene Swickard
MacGregor, Norman
Magee, Jacqueline L.
Malooley, Vula
Manson, Martha
Marsh, Mary
Martin, Betty
Martin, Gwen
Matherly, Dianna
Matherly, Sheila
Mathes, Mary
Maxwell, Glenn
Meier, Michael
Merrill, Elizabeth Ross
Milam, Pamela
Miller, Elenora
Miller, Emmet
Miller, Evalyn
Miller, Jeanne
Miller, Judith
Miller, Margaret
Miller, Sally
Moats, Virginia Ross
Montgomery, Roseann Baird
Mooneyhan, Mickie
Moore, James
Morgan, Karen
Morgan, Melody
Mortz, Karen
Mosely, Connie

Mosely, Synda
Moyer, Barbara
Muncie, Joan
Murray, Ruth
Myer, Joan
Myers, Goldie
Nardini, Robert
Nees, Anna
Neukom, Edna
Newland, Sarah
Newman, Ann
Nichols, Lena
Nickel, Margaret
Nies, Fanella Collins
Noel, Vicki
Norwine, James
Ogborn, Robert
Olinger, Patricia
Orman, Margaret
Orton, Marie
O'Toole, Minnie Connor
Paddock, Leatha
Parker, Janet
Parker, Johnny
Pate, Richard
Pendergast, Janeen
Peoples, John
Pernow, Camilla
Personette, Diane
Peters, Albert
Phelan, Marianne
Phelps, Virginia
Phenis, Diana
Phillips, Linda
Phillips, Mary
Pickens, Mary Fowler
Pierard, Charlene
Piker, David
Pitler, Marcia
Plumley, Boyd
Poole, John
Porter, Jan
Poulter, Beulah Eaton
Price, Phyllis
Prior, Paul, Jr.
Pritchard, Rosemary
Prothero, Kathy
Purcell, Elna
Purcell, Judy
Purnell, Darrell
Quesenberry, Rolande
Raibley, Margaret
Ramsey, Anna
Ray, Mary
Reed, Nancy
Reine, Judith
Reisner, Genevieve
Rensch, Gloria
Reynolds, Martha
Reynolds, Suzanne
Rhoads, Janet
Richardson, Barbara
Ring, Carl
Rinsch, Wilma
Roberts, Claretta
Roberts, Julia
Robinson, Eva
Robinson, Michael
Roccia, Tina
Roesch, Carl
Rohan, Margaret
Roller, Rebecca
Roseberry, Ruth
Rosenberg, Laura
Rupp, Nancy Hungerford
St. John, Robert
Samuels, Carmen Gordon
Samuels, Marion
Sanford, Martha
Sargent, Terri
Savage, Roberta
Schimmel, Donna
Schultz, Sandra
Scott, Barbara

Scott, Deborah
Scott, Marylea
Sharp, Diane
Shepherd, Susan Swain
Sherrill, Nancy
Shillings, Virginia
Shiplov, Jeremiah
Shoaff, Thomas
Shoemaker, Kathie Kyle
Silliman, Ann
Sims, Joseph
Sims, Roberta
Skelton, Rose
Smith, Brenda
Smith, Candice
Smith, Cheryl
Smith, Deborah
Smith, Donald
Smith, Dossie
Smith, Edward
Smith, Frances
Smith, Joan Harris
Smith, Judith Kirkham
Smith, Julia
Smith, Kenneth
Smith, Margaret
Smith, Virginia
Smith, W. E.
Smyres, Nell
Sparks, Addie
Sparks, Faye
Sparks, James
Spear, Thelma
Stanfield, Linda Maher
Stanforth, Michael
Stanley, Mary
Stanton, Suzanne
Stein, Benton
Stepp, Kim
Stevenson, David
Stewart, Nina
Stradtner, Merrie
Strang, Faye
Streeter, Noell
Stringer, Barbara Williams
Stroot, Charlotte Skinner
Stubbins, Anna
Suckow, Stephen
Sullivan, John
Sutherland, Carol
Sutherland, Eugene
Sutton, Sharon Stearley
Tague, Charles
Tanner, William
Tatlock, Rhonda
Taylor, Stillman
Thiede, Julia
Thomas, Berneice
Thomas, Dorothy A.
Thomas, Dorothy M.
Thomas, Pearl
Thornburgh, Mary
Tinkle, Jimmy
Tipton, Paul
Townsley, Madge
True, Clarence
Turk, Margaret
Uzzell, Edward
Valentine, Lena
Valentine, Mildred
Vancil, Dorothy
Van Reed, Suzanne Miller
Van Ulzen, Elizabeth
Venable, Thomas
Vester, Mary
Voll, Marilyn
Voyles, Florence
Wagner, Carol
Wailly, Luella
Wakefield, Marcia
Walbring, Nancy
Walker, A. F.
Walker, Charlotte
Walker, Melissa

Wallace, Betty
Wallace, Bonnie Archer
Wallace, James
Walton, Lena
Ward, Suzanne
Warner, Michael
Warren, Mary
Waters, Margaret
Watkins, William P.
Watson, Mary
Weaver, Carol
Wert, Alice
Wert, Paul
Wert, Thomas
Wheat, James
Wheat, Vivian
Wilcox, Mary
Wilkey, Jerry
Wilkins, Gloria
Williams, Charlotte
Williams, Marti
Williams, Mildred
Willis, Sara
Winslow, Carol Molter
Wolfe, Robert
Wonner, Lucy
Wonner, Lucy C.
Wood, Barbara Borne
Wood, Cora Kidder
Wood, Deborah
Wood, Karen Hutchinson
Wray, Elizabeth
Wren, Mary
Youman, Sara
Young, Cassie
Young, Kathy
Zimmerman, Suzanne

TIME IS AN ENDLESS CORD THAT EACH OF US HOLDS IN THE MIDDLE

YEAR	LIBRARY EVENTS	LOCAL EVENTS	NATIONAL EVENTS	INVENTIONS & DISCOVERIES
1810	First state constitution of Indiana adopted; includes libraries 1816 Act authorizing libraries in Vigo and other counties 1818	Official plat for Terre Haute recorded 1816 Vigo County formed 1818 First schoolhouse in Terre Haute 1819		
1820	First newspaper notice on library hours 1823 Eight library trustees elected to take office 1825 Library borrowers asked to post $25 bond 1827	First newspaper in Terre Haute 1823 Preston House built at 13½ and Poplar 1826		
1830	County library among local attractions 1832	Bank built at 219 Ohio (now Memorial Hall) 1834 National Highway (now U.S. 40) reaches Terre Haute 1838		Steam locomotive 1830 Photography 1835 Vulcanized rubber 1839
1840		St. Mary-of-the-Woods College established 1840	War with Mexico 1846	Rotary printing press 1846
1850	Act authorizing township libraries 1852 Act authorizing public subscription libraries 1852 Maclure Workingman's Library established 1855 Petition to merge County and Workingman's libraries 1857	Railroad reaches Terre Haute 1852 Eugene V. Debs born 1855 Gas for lighting and heating available 1856 Paul Dresser born 1857 First annual city directory published 1858 Telegraph line reaches Terre Haute 1859		
1860	Young Men's Literary Assn. given custody of library 1866 First Terre Haute Library Assn. formed 1869	Terre Haute High School opens 1863 Street railway cars in operation 1867	Civil War 1861–65 First U.S. income tax law 1861 Transcontinental railroad completed 1869	Typewriter 1868

YEAR	LIBRARY EVENTS	LOCAL EVENTS	NATIONAL EVENTS	INVENTIONS & DISCOVERIES
1870	Second Terre Haute Library Assn. formed 1879	Indiana State Normal (now Indiana State University) opens 1870 Theodore Dreiser born 1871 Max Ehrmann born 1872 Water company begins operation 1873 Terre Haute School of Industrial Science (now Rose Hulman Institute of Technology) opens 1874	Rural Free Delivery of mail 1878	Telephone 1876 Phonograph 1877 Electric light bulb 1879
1880	Association Library opened 624½ Main (Wabash Ave.) 1880 Act authorizing School Board to establish public library 1881 Terre Haute School Board levied $0.02 tax for public library 1881 Terre Haute Public Library opened 624½ Main (Wabash Ave.) 1882 Terre Haute Public Library moved to 709½ Main (Wabash Ave.) 1884	First telephone installed 1881 St. Anthony (now Terre Haute Regional) Hospital opens 1882 Terre Haute Society for Organizing Charities formed 1882 Ground broken for Vigo County Courthouse 1884 New Terre Haute High School opened (became Wiley High School) 1886 Electric lighting for streets and homes available 1887	American Federation of Labor organized 1886	Electric iron and fan 1882 Electric trolley car 1884 Linotype 1885 Disc phonograph record 1887 Ball point pen 1888 Kodak camera 1888
1890	Indiana Library Assn. formed 1891 Terre Haute Public Library moved to former church at 119 N. Eighth 1896 Dewey Decimal Classification instituted 1898	Union Hospital opened 1892	War with Spain 1898	Gas-powered auto 1892 Movie machine 1894 Electric stove 1896 Wireless telegraph 1896 Tape recorder, magnetic 1899
1900	Crawford Fairbanks offers $50,000 for new library 1903 Groundbreaking for new building 1904	First automobile in Terre Haute 1900 Interurban service begins 1902	Widespread financial panic 1907	Airplane 1903 Electric washer and vacuum cleaner 1907

	Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library opened 1906 First children's story hour held 1907 First "sub-branch" library (Rea School) 1907			Henry Ford's Model T automobile 1908
1910	Indiana Library Assn. annual meeting held in Terre Haute 1912 Radiopticon carbon arc projector for loan 1914 First branch library (Montrose School) 1914 Books collected for shipment to soldiers and sailors 1918	Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce chartered 1913	U.S. population reaches 100 million 1915 World War I 1917–18	Radio receiver 1913 Neon lamp 1915 Automatic toaster 1918
1920	Sallie Hughes elected president of Indiana Library Assn. 1922	Vigo County Historical Society organized 1923 First public restroom in service station, 8th and Ohio 1927 Radio station WRPI (now WBOW) began operation 1927 First local airport (Dresser Field) opened 1928	Stock Market crash 1929	Pushbutton elevator 1922 Dynamic loudspeaker 1924 Talking movie 1927 Television 1927 Teletype 1928 Coaxial cable 1929 FM radio 1929
1930	Circulation reached all-time high of 799,768 1931–32 Severe budget cut because of Depression 1932 All but three branch libraries closed 1932 Some branch libraries re-opened 1934		New Deal legislation 1933 Works Progress Administration created 1935 Public Utilities and Social Security acts 1935	Electric razor 1931 Parking meter 1935 Xerox photocopier 1938 Computer 1939
1940	Books collected for shipment to Armed Forces 1942	Sheldon Swope Art Gallery opened 1942 Hulman Field airport dedicated 1944 Ralph Tucker began 20 years as Mayor 1948	Forty-hour work week enacted 1940 World War II 1941–45	Nuclear reaction 1942 Transistor 1947 Polaroid land camera 1948 Phonograph record, long playing 1948

YEAR	LIBRARY EVENTS	LOCAL EVENTS	NATIONAL EVENTS	INVENTIONS & DISCOVERIES
1950	Slides, filmstrips, microfilm added 1954 First bookmobile put in operation 1955 Phonograph records, motion picture films added 1955 Trustee John Bloxsome elected president of Indiana Trustees Assn. 1956 First community branch opened, Meadows Shopping Center 1958 First Staff Institute held 1959	WTHI TV-10 began broadcasting 1954 Historical Museum of Wabash Valley opened 1958	Korean War 1950–53 Racial segregation outlawed in public schools 1954 Library Services Act provides federal funds 1956 First artificial satellite launched 1958	Videotape, 2 inch 1956
1960	Library service extended to Vigo County 1961 West Terre Haute branch opened 1961 North and South branches opened 1962 Teletype installed for interlibrary communication 1965 Four-year Adult Education Project begins 1965 No-fine policy instituted 1968 Film projector lending project begins 1968	Vigo County School Corporation established 1961 Cable TV installation begun 1966 Indiana Vocational Technical College opens 1967 Interstate 70 completed through Terre Haute 1967 West Central Indiana Economic Development District incorporated 1968	First manned space flight 1961 U.S. troops in Vietnam 1962 Civil rights demonstrations 1963 Medicare program established 1966 Antiwar demonstrations and race riots 1967 U.S. population reaches 200 million 1967 Man lands on the Moon 1969	Hologram 1962 Audiotape cassette 1965 Laser 1967
1970	Site purchased for new main library building 1970 Building Program Statement completed 1972 Mediamobile Project begins 1972 Vigo County Public Library becomes Class I library with appointed board 1974 Superior Court declares Vigo County Library legal entity 1975	Katherine Hamilton Mental Health Center opens 1971 Hyte Community Center built 1972 Hulman Civic University Center opens 1973	Massive drive begun against drug addiction 1971 Watergate scandal 1972 Worst inflation in 27 years 1973 President Nixon resigns 1974 U.S. military involvement in Vietnam ends 1975	Videotape cassette 1970

F

TERRE HAUTE'S FIRST LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

First, a respectable number of citizens formed the "Terre Haute Library Association" and established an office and reading room in the second story of the building at the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue. Deloss W. Minshall was chosen President and John S. Beach, Secretary; and J. Hollister Balding, a public school teacher, in direct charge of all the property. It was to be maintained by subscriptions, according to law; one of the receipts inserted here will show the basis of membership:

No. 101 TERRE HAUTE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

This certifies that

WM. H. WILEY,

having paid *four dollars* is entitled to all the privileges of membership in this Association for *one year.*

John S. Beach, Secretary
per Balding

Terre Haute, *Feb. 7, 1869*

This movement was largely in response to a paragraph in the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools on the need of a public library: "In our last report, we called attention somewhat at length to the importance of establishing in some way accessible to the schools, a Public Library as an auxiliary to public school education.*

*Wiley, *History of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, 1879–1916* (1916) p. 14

G

PETITIONERS FOR SECOND TERRE HAUTE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

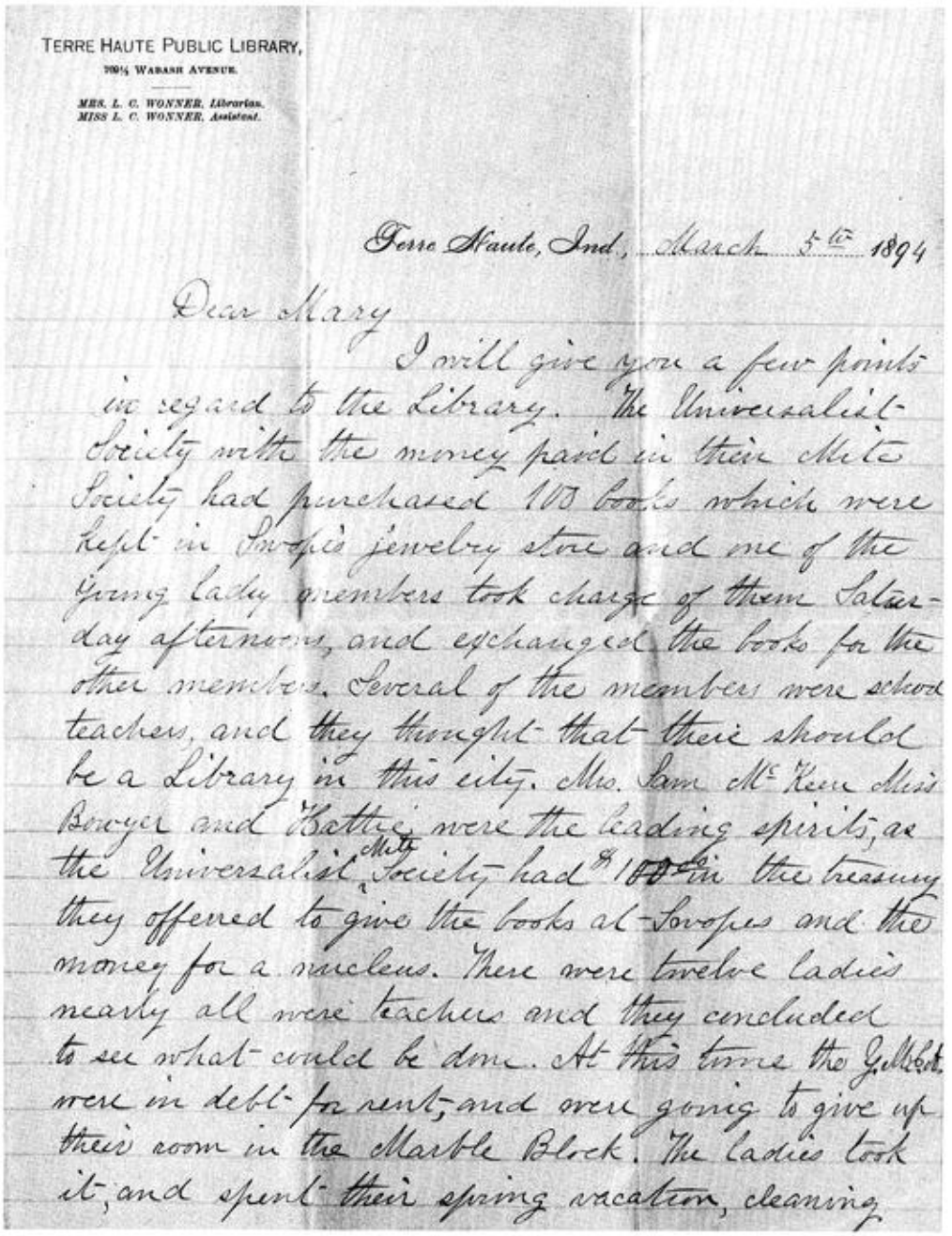
The Undersigned agree to pay the sum of money set opposite our respective names and do voluntarily associate ourselves to organize a body corporate to be called the Terre Haute Library Association.

NAMES	NO. OF SHARES	AMT.
W. Eggleston	1	$1.00
A. M. Heinly	1	$1.00
L. B. Martin	1	$1.00
James D. Brown	1	$1.00
S. B. Gookins	1	$1.00
A. M. Farnham	1	$1.00
S. C. Richardson	1	$1.00
W. H. Paige	1	$1.00
J. T. Scovell	1	$1.00
H. P. Townley	1	$1.00
Fred A. Ross	1	$1.00
M. Joseph	1	$1.00
G. E. Brokaw	1	$1.00
R. W. Rippetoe	1	$1.00
John F. Gulick	1	$1.00
E. M. Walmsly	1	$1.00
R. L. Alder	1	$1.00
J. H. Williams	1	$1.00
John Wilkes	1	$1.00
R. N. Hudson	1	$1.00
C. B. Brokaw	1	$1.00
G. F. Cookerly	1	$1.00
Geo. L. Flood	1	$1.00
John G. Shryer	1	$1.00
E. F. Howe	1	$1.00
P. E. Tuttle	1	$1.00
C. R. Henderson	1	$1.00
J. P. Worrell	1	$1.00
E. L. Norcross	1	$1.00
J. Irving Riddle	1	$1.00
J. G. Briggs	1	$1.00
Jas. B. E. Steward	1	$1.00
W. R. McKeen	1	$1.00

NAMES	NO. OF SHARES	AMT.
P. S. Westfall	1	$1.00
Robert S. Cox	1	$1.00
Thomas B. Long	1	$1.00
C. M. Warren	1	$1.00
M. N. Diall	1	$1.00
S. C. Beach	1	$1.00
Nayes White	1	$1.00
Stephen R. Young	1	$1.00
H. S. Clift	1	$1.00
J. Williams	1	$1.00
Leslie D. Thomas	1	$1.00
Joseph Richardson	1	$1.00
Wm. H. Wiley	1	$1.00
S. F. Ball	1	$1.00
Jas. Gilbert	1	$1.00
Seth Wilcox	1	$1.00
H. D. Scott	1	$1.00
C. R. Peddle	1	$1.00
M. S. Dunham	1	$1.00
H. Hulman	1	$1.00
W. W. Byers	1	$1.00
Edward W. Abbey	1	$1.00
T. H. Riddle	1	$1.00
Moses H. Waters	1	$1.00
R. S. Tennant	1	$1.00
Geo. E. Farrington	1	$1.00
Thos. Dowling	1	$1.00
Jas. Ross	1	$1.00
S. R. Henderson	1	$1.00
Preston Hussey	1	$1.00
J. H. O. Boyle	1	$1.00
Wm. Mack	1	$1.00
Jno. W. Davis	1	$1.00
M. M. Joab	1	$1.00
L. A. Burnett	1	$1.00
J. Erlanger	1	$1.00
C. Rickers	1	$1.00
L. Forstor	1	$1.00
Thomas E. Knox	1	$1.00
A. C. Donaldson	1	$1.00
I. H. C. Royse	1	$1.00

H

WONNER LETTER OF 1894



TERRE HAUTE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
703½ WABASH AVENUE.

MRS. L. C. WONNER, Librarian.
MISS L. C. WONNER, Assistant.

Terre Haute, Ind., March 5th 1894

Dear Mary

I will give you a few points in regard to the Library. The Universalist Society with the money paid in their Mite Society had purchased 103 books which were kept in Snoops's jewelry store and one of the young lady members took charge of them Saturday afternoons, and exchanged the books for the other members. Several of the members were school teachers, and they thought that there should be a Library in this city. Mrs. Sam McKeen Miss Bowyer and Hattie were the leading spirits, as the Universalist Mite Society had $100 in the treasury they offered to give the books at Snoops and the money for a nucleus. There were twelve ladies nearly all were teachers and they concluded to see what could be done. At this time the G.A.R. were in debt for rent, and were going to give up their room in the Marble Block. The ladies took it, and spent their spring vacation, cleaning

and mending the carpet, fixing the room so that Thursday eve March 25 the L. was opened with a book reception and one hundred books were contributed. Another book reception in April added fifty more. An annual fee of $2.00 by door drawing books was paid, and so the L. was carried on for over two years. The change in the law of the state reducing the number of inhabitants in cities from 30,000 to 10,000 allowing the school trustees to use money for libraries if they saw fit put T. H. trustees in that position. They saw fit, but Fort Wayne trustees have not as yet. Frank can look at the law. He also knows of the present state of affairs concerning unused money in the hands of school trustees. I understand there is $100,000 in Fort Wayne. I have heard it claimed that they can build a fine Library. So they can, but our people have enjoyed, and I trust have improved the opportunity afforded in our humble way for 12 years. No influential citizen has done more than pay the tax, but to those twelve women who in two years saw the L. grow until there were twelve hundred books collected, (and as it was a burden) they offered to turn it over to the trustees and they accepted. This is for you and Frank only. There is always a little inside wire working, and I

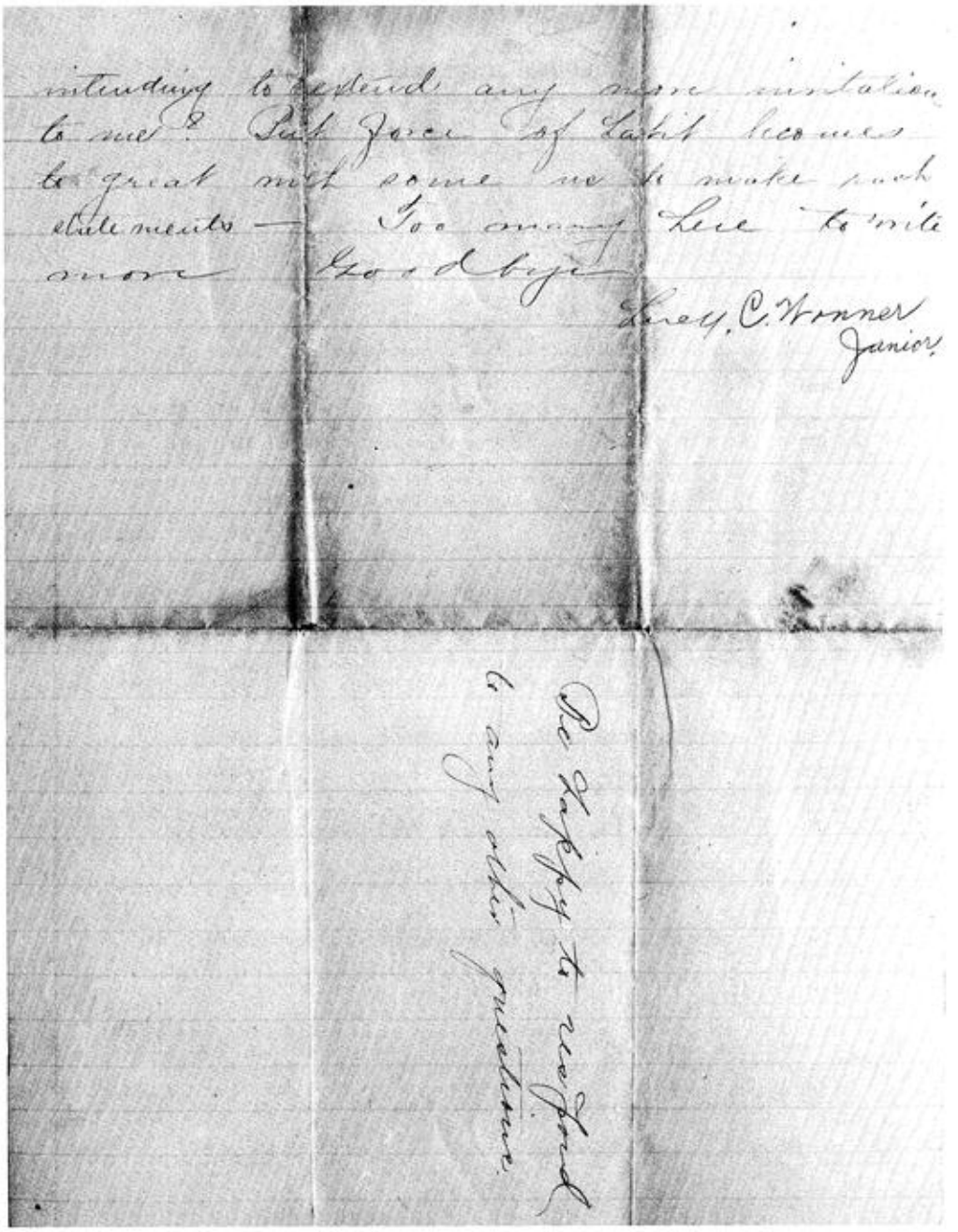
TERRE HAUTE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
7914 WABASH AVENUE.

MRS. L. C. WONNER, Librarian.
MISS L. C. WONNER, Assistant.

Terre Haute, Ind., ... 189

do not want to say anything while we are librarians. I hope you will find the information you want but I shall be ready to tell you anything I can. I find in reading this over that my sentences are not very clear but I have exchanged books, hunted all books on Russia for two ladies, and now Lucy is here to carry on the work. You see I want the women to have their due, if it does make me appear spiteful. Yours Lucy L. Wonner Jr.

We now have about 12.000 vols. You will see I asked mother to answer your letter as I thought she could be more explicit. The annual appropriation amounts to about $3.500 now. I am also looking forward to May. But can't you come down and spend the day before then. I will let you and Mother talk all you want. I thought you were not.



intending to extend any more invitation
to me? But force of habit becomes
to great with some us to make such
statements — Too many here to write
more Good bye

Lorey, C. Wonner
Junior.

Be happy to respond
to any other questions.

I

CARTER LETTER OF 1953

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY
HAROLD F. BRIGHAM, *Director*
Telephone: Plaza 6503

Extension Division
HARRIET I. CARTER, *Head*

140 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis 4

July 14, 1953

Miss Hazel Bungard, Acting Librarian
E. Fairbanks Memorial Library
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Miss Bungard:

Ar your request, I am sending a report of my observations as a result of my visit to Terre Haute with recommendations.

A library in a city the size of Terre Haute would be expected to have certain characteristics similar to other public libraries of its size and certain differences. The differences seem to be more apparent than the similarities.

The following are comments that are intended to contain such constructive suggestions and criticisms as come to mind after only a brief visit.

Building and equipment

The circulation desk seemed to me to occupy too large an area. The space could be put to better use if the desk were placed adjacent to the entrance in an L shape allowing either the placing of additional stacks in the present desk area, or of service desks manned by reference assistants.

The cash register strikes a harsh note to the visitor in a day when libraries are cutting out as much red tape and rules as possible, even to the elimination of fines.

The use of visible files and modern office equipment should be encouraged.

The new plan for the basement seems to me to be a mistake, for it gives space that would be better used for a major library service (children's work, for example) to a minor one (genealogy) and constructs a central hall meeting place without outside light and air. This space is badly needed for storage stacks.

The numerous, unmatched bookcases all over the library make consecutive, efficient shelving impossible, as well as making for a decidely hodge-podge appearance.

I saw the library in the daytime -- Is lighting adequate, particularly in the stacks?

Book collection

The obvious emphasis on the antiquarian and rare, fine books in the Terre Haute collection, including genealogy, has made the library into a special or research library rather than a widely useful instrument for general public use. This points to the task of the future, to de-emphasize the first and stress the latter, if the functions of a public library are to be carried out.

The present collection needs to be inventoried, reorganized and recataloged, and the two types of books (general and rare) separated. In fact, the antiquarian collection is so large that it could easily occupy a separate building to make room for the expanded public services of the central library.

While we know the genealogy activities are now firmly entrenched, it is necessary to say that it represents an unfortunate duplication of service already available in the state and is a considerable drain on staff, book funds, and space for this size library.

The general book collection should be built up in all fields. Attention should be given to materials needed for the special needs of the community; we have in mind a technical collection for the use of business and industry in the Terre Haute trading area.

Considerably more books funds will be needed, in any event. Amounts budgeted to this item are quite low.

New materials services that should be considered are the microfilming of newspapers, perhaps in co-operation with the local newspaper publisher; and a collection of phonograph records.

Many of the government documents could be disposed of because of the large and complete depository collections elsewhere in Indiana.

Staff

The staff situation should have primary attention. Aside from the present effort to get a new head librarian, the board should seek new appointees to its key positions who offer the requisite training and experience in large public libraries. This does not by any means suggest that present staff should be displaced wholesale, but it does suggest that the injection of new people will bring fresh viewpoints from other systems that would have the effect, I am sure, of reviving professional interest and improving morale.

The new head librarian should be given a free hand in building such a staff and in designing a personnel program that would establish a work week (now too long) salary schedule, vacation, sick leave and retirement policies in line with the best current practice. An in-service training program and other personnel practices should be devised to weld the staff into a unit dedicated to the new library program.

Additional positions should be created so people could be secured to develop long neglected phases of the service, particularly extension and adult services.

I have made the suggestion to Mr. Watson that a consultant be retained to deal with the rare books, so as to free the new librarian for the tremendous job of reorganization of the library.

Service Program

Libraries of the size of Terre Haute pay considerably more attention than given there to the adult education activities and extension of services. By the former we mean individual reader guidance, a book collection selected for and arranged in reader interest groups, work with young people, library sponsored discussion groups, film showings, use of community rooms, a lecture series etc.

By extension we have in mind branch service and the extension of service to people in the area not now served, in Vigo County at least, if not to the region comprising the Terre Haute trading area, either by contract or direct service. There are 40,946 unserved people in Vigo County and 75,953 in the trading area that includes Sullivan, Clay, and Parke counties. (Vermillion has a countywide library system.)

The location of branches with respect to population centers may need study. The type of branches (in school buildings) is universally regarded as failing to meet the needs for adult as well as juvenile service. In effect, most of the branches because of their schedules and location are bound to be school libraries, rather than branches where adult service is given as in community branches elsewhere.

Registration records are incomplete and should be brought up to date. It is probable that the library is not being used by as many people as standards call for. We recommend a longer registration period than 2 years and a higher fee than $1.00 for nonresident borrowers.

Summary

The problem in Terre Haute essentially is to transform the library from what it has become—a rare book, genealogical and school library, of interest and use by special groups and limited numbers, into a fine, public library with an expanded and expanding viewpoint, with broad objectives of information, recreation, education, research and esthetics now but partially fulfilled.

Very truly yours,

Harriet I. Carter

Harriet I. Carter, Head
Extension Division

HC/jes

J

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT (LSCA) PROJECTS AT VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. Extending services to the County, materials for new branch libraries (North, South and West) and the Bookmobile:
   1961 2 years $60,000
2. The "Open Door," with Vigo County performing centralized book processing for Sullivan and Knox Counties, and providing training and consultation for staff and trustees at Sullivan and Knox:
   1962 2 years $8,000
3. Adult Education, improve the community's group and organization program by adding a doctorate-level adult educator to the staff and making his services available to the public:
   1965 4 years $66,760
4. Teletype Network, selected TWX centers and designated satellites:
   1965 Statewide (State Library control)
5. Audio-Visual, lending motion picture projectors (8 and 16mm) and projector screens:
   1967 2 years $6,924
6. Mediamobile, provide media resources to low-income and/or geographically isolated citizens:
   1972 2 years $32,801
7. Indiana Information Retrieval System (INDIRS), selected public libraries and school corporations:
   1972 Statewide (Indiana University control)

Total funds received from LSCA 1961 through 1972: $165,155. By adding estimated value of TWX and INDIRS projects, VCPL has received about $200,000 during the twelve years, 1961-1972.

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